

LAST MONTH'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
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Fear of civil war as 30 die in Baku riots

Soviet troops fly in as ethnic clashes grow

By Hazhir Teimourian and Michael Knipe

As fighting continued last night between Azerbaijanis and Armenians in and around the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, the Soviet Union for the first time faced the possibility of a war breaking out between two of its constituent republics.

The Soviet authorities flew in additional troops from the Interior Ministry's Dzerzhinsky division to restore order after more than 30 people were killed.

Tass described the situation as running out of control. Officials in the region talked of the situation deteriorating into civil war.

Armenian nationalists accused Azerbaijanis of massacring the inhabitants of Solnkh village and several thousand of them carrying arms were encircling the

Shamian region, just north of the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave in Azerbaijan.

As Russian soldiers were moved on to the streets of Baku, the capital of the republic of Azerbaijan on the western shores of the Caspian Sea, residents told *The Times* that the city was extremely tense after an anti-Armenian "pogrom" of the previous night.

Armenian officials sent telegrams to President Gorbachev to warn him that war could



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leading to upland villages to protect their inhabitants.

The ethnic clashes in Azerbaijan present President Gorbachev with an additional burden as he wrestles with the Lithuanian demands for secession.

Tass described the violence in Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave administered by Azerbaijan but inhabited largely by Armenians, as exceptional.

Battles were being fought in several villages in the Getashenak area and Soviet Interior Ministry troops were starting to arrive by helicopter, according to sources at Armenian National Movement headquarters in Yerevan.

Azerbaijanis were using armoured vehicles taken from Soviet troops to advance on a village near Manasid, according to the reports.

The latest flare-up follows two years of bloody clashes between Azerbaijanis and Armenians over control of Nagorno-Karabakh. At least 150 people have died.

In Yerevan yesterday the crowds of Armenians demanded that the regional government co-operate with the Armenian nationalist movement to protect the sovereignty of Armenia.

A spokesman for the movement said all of Armenia was under a de facto state of emergency.

Demonstrators booed and hissed when organizers of the rally in Yerevan announced that two Soviet envoys, Mr Nikolai Sliukov, a Politburo member, and Mr Ivan Sialev, a deputy premier, would visit Yerevan shortly.

Speakers at the meeting, which was organized by activists of the Popular Front mass movement, said Kremlin officials had nothing to do in Armenia, according to the spokesman for the Armenian National Movement.

The speakers in Freedom Square, the former Theatre Square, rebaptized by Armenian nationalists, accused Moscow leaders of fanning the inter-ethnic war by closing their eyes to the bloodshed in Nagorno-Karabakh and failing to rapidly send troops to Shamian.

The Saturday night rampage flared after an estimated 150,000 people who attended a rally in Baku to hear grievances against neigh-

bouring states at any time. "Lenin Street is awash with blood," a Russian woman told Tass, which reported that 50 pogroms, or ethnically-motivated attacks, had taken place in the region since Saturday.

In Yerevan, the Armenian capital, a huge crowd, angered by the overnight deaths of 30 people, set up self defence units and mobilized the Armenian population.

The Saturday deaths, reported to be mostly Armenians, were the Soviet Union's worst outbreak of ethnic violence in nearly two years.

A crowd estimated to number up to half a million gathered in Yerevan, the capital of Soviet Armenia, after Moscow Radio reported the deaths in ethnic fighting in Baku on Saturday night.

The city was reported to be calm yesterday, but according to some reports armed bands of Azerbaijani militants had been roaming the streets with lists of addresses of Armenians. Officials said the death toll could rise.

Armenian activists said a special squad of armed Armenian police was preparing to fly to Azerbaijan to protect the Armenian minority.

Moscow radio said they were using helicopters and would attempt to cut roads

Dealers will try to avert new share price slide

By Our City Staff

Dealers will try to avert a further fall in the stock market this morning as London reopens after the weekend. On Friday, markets in Tokyo, London and New York fell sharply, partly a response to President Gorbachev's difficulties in the Soviet republics.

Tokyo, where Friday's slide began, is closed today for a public holiday, so London is the first leading market to open since Wall Street tumbled 71 points on Friday night.

Although international af-

airs are the main cause of London's nervousness, dealers are also worried that a pay explosion will boost inflation and prompt another interest rate rise.

Mr John Major, the Chancellor, will be anxious to avoid increasing interest rates before the Budget in March, and economists argue that he would sooner move in the next fortnight than delay action until close to the Budget.

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Market fears, page 25

Moscow death notice for CIA's diplomat Donald

From Martin Fletcher
Washington

The CIA may have lost one of its most important Soviet agents. Reports from Moscow over the weekend said a senior diplomat had been sentenced to death for passing information to the Americans for nearly three decades.

Officials in Washington would not comment yesterday on the allegations, which identified the diplomat only by his code-name "Donald", and which gave detailed descriptions of classic spy-book techniques he allegedly used.

Whether he has already been executed was not made clear.

The official Communist Party newspaper *Pravda* claimed Donald was recruited in 1961 while working

at the Soviet Union's UN mission in New York and continued to work for the US during postings to Burma and India and on his return to Moscow.

Radio Moscow said that even in 1961 he was an important diplomat - "by no means one of the rank and file". The official news agency, Tass, said he was "one of the main agents of the US special services".

Pravda alleged that he had passed on plans for defending the Soviet Union against chemical and biological warfare, nuclear weapons doctrine, civil defence preparations and diplomatic codes.

"Having access to many state secrets, Donald was trading in everything the US intelligence services were interested in," said the newspaper.

"With an excellent education and as a teacher in one of the academics, he was an expert in many questions."

Radio Moscow reported: "Although he was confused about the motives for his fall, a political-ideological degeneration can be traced against a background of abnormal conceit."

Pravda gave a colourful account of Donald's techniques, which were said to have included radio transmissions to the US Embassy from passing Moscow buses and "dead drops" in the narrow streets of the old city.

At other times communications with his American handlers were through personal advertisements in *The New York Times*. "Moody, Donald F. Please write as you

promised. Uncle Charles and Sister Clara are OK," read one.

Another referred to his Burma posting: "I was extremely glad to learn that you were lucky. I will visit you soon. Everything is OK." According to *Pravda*, an FBI agent visited Rangoon soon after and introduced Donald to a CIA contact. He was given the code "607 Madison Avenue" in case he had to seek US help.

Pravda said Donald more than once aroused the suspicions of the KGB but kept his head and survived. When captured, he was quoted as saying: "I felt in my spine the KGB was after me but my own analysis of my actions erased my concerns." *Pravda* attributed his downfall to accumulated fatigue after years of double-life.

Hoods and fake guns of robbers who died



An RUC officer displaying an imitation machine gun and pistol with gloves and balaclavas worn by the Belfast robbers.

Ulster 'shoot to kill' denial

By Edward Gorman
and Nicholas Wood

The Government denied yesterday that security forces in Ulster were conducting a "shoot-to-kill" policy as military sources said the soldiers who gunned down three men in a Belfast street thought the suspects would open fire.

Amid mounting controversy over the deaths which threatens to stoke up political tensions at a crucial time, Dr Brian Mawhinney, Under-Secretary of State at the Northern Ireland Office, said: "The only people who are conducting a shoot to kill policy in the Province are terrorists."

The government intervention followed claims that the men were carrying imitation weapons during a bungled

robbery of a betting shop on the Falls Road and had been targeted by an undercover SAS-type assassination team.

The dead men, all from West Belfast, were named as Peter James Thompson, aged 21, of Broom Park Heights; Edward Paul Hale, 25, of Glenkeen, Poleglass; and John Joseph McNeill, 42, of Stanhope Drive.

Dr Mawhinney said he could not comment while an inquiry was underway, but added that people who carried imitation guns could not expect members of the security forces to be aware of that in the heat of the moment.

The shootings, the first by the Army since October, have created a furore in the nationalist community, stoking tension in the Province at a time when political progress looked possible for the first time in years. They are also placing strains on improving Anglo-Irish relations.

Social Democrat and Labour politicians called for an independent inquiry and Labour sought a Commons statement by Mr Peter Brooke.

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Romania denies army takeover

From Christopher Walker
Bucharest

A leading member of Romania's ruling National Salvation Front yesterday denied growing suggestions that a military takeover was imminent aimed at restoring order to an administration with its credibility in tatters and its confidence badly shaken.

The denial, by Mr Dumitru Mazilu, the Front's first acting Vice-President, came after consultations between military leaders and members of the Front in the wake of Saturday's surprise decision to rescind the previous evening's abolition of the Communist

Party and instead put its future to a referendum on January 28.

The consultations came as the military took over from the Front in the regional city of Timisoara, crucible of the revolution. An official in-

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sisted, however, that the military takeover there was only temporary and would end "in a few days" after a new interim ruling body had been chosen which was free from former high-level Communists.

Some reports spoke of

shooting in the city on Saturday.

Asked if a military takeover was now likely in other areas of the country, Mr Mazilu, whose own resignation is being demanded in the press, said: "No, I do not think so. We had consultations with the Army today, and the Army is with us ... the Army is with the revolution."

But, despite the denials, there is a strong conviction that the Army may seek to instal what one angry student described as "socialism with a smiling face" which would be acceptable to the Kremlin.

Military units remain con-

spicuously in position at all strategic buildings in the capital, notably outside the Front's offices in Victory Square, where Friday night's unruly demonstration achieved the outlawing of the Communist Party.

Diplomatic reports said an army general was now also the senior local administrator in the city of Brasov. Five members of the new Government are already soldiers, including General Nicolae Militaru, the powerful Defence Minister. The Minister of the Economy and the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications are also generals.

Woman in baby hunt



An artist's impression, issued by the police yesterday, of "Christine", the woman who snatched a 36-hour-old baby girl from St Thomas's Hospital, south London, last week.

Witnesses, including the baby's mother, Miss Dawn Griffiths, helped the artist to create a likeness of the woman.

UK may toughen boat people policy

From Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor, Hong Kong

A senior government source said yesterday that Britain might have to find a way of sending Vietnamese boat people back as soon as they arrived in Hong Kong, instead of the lengthy screening and appeals procedure.

But at the same time the source disclosed that the next group of Vietnamese to be forcibly sent back will be delayed until after the visit to Hong Kong by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary. He strongly hinted that Britain will wait for the international boat people conference which was to have been held in Geneva on Thursday to be reconvened.

The proposal to turn boat people around quickly would be a significant toughening of the existing policy and would aggravate differences with Washington and the United Nations High Commissioner

for Refugees. The government view is that such a system would be the same in principle as the one operated by the United States, which returns Mexican immigrants as soon as they are caught. But Washington does not accept the

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comparison, because the Mexicans are fleeing from a democratic country.

The proposed system would also be similar in principle to the one operated by the Hong Kong Government, which sends a daily busload of illegal Chinese immigrants to the border, where they are handed over to Chinese officials.

Mr Hurd stood at the border yesterday and saw such a group being expelled. "It

Continued on page 24, col 5

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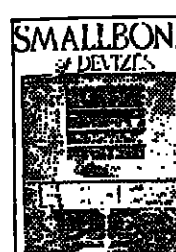
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INSIDE

THE TIMES GUIDE

TO HEALTHY LIVING

Fit for the Nineties

How healthy is the way you live? Today *The Times* begins a five-part guide to a better lifestyle with an assessment of health risks by Dr Thomas Stuttaford on page 12.

Get on the right path in the 1990s with *The Times Guide to Healthy Living* all this week.

Portfolio

PLATINUM

There were no claims on Saturday for the weekly prize, which next weekend will rise to £12,000. For today's game and the chance to win £2,000, see page 29

Labour lead

Labour has increased its lead over the Conservatives to eight per cent in the latest MORI aggregate opinion poll, one of the largest indicators of public opinion. Labour had 48 per cent of the intended vote which, if repeated at an election, would give the party a 50-seat majority. Page 6

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Police chief praises mother's courage and talks of her 'day of despair'

Hunt stepped up for woman who took baby from hospital

By Jamie Dettmer

An artist's impression of the woman who abducted a 36-hour-old baby girl from the maternity ward of a London hospital by posing as a health worker was released by police yesterday as the mother made an emotional plea for the return of her child.

The woman who snatched Alexandra Griffiths from St Thomas's Hospital on Thursday is now believed to have light-brown rather than blonde hair. She called herself Christine and disappeared after telling the mother she was going to weigh the child.

Det Supt John Bassett, who is leading investigations, admitted yesterday that the police had few clues to go on. "It is more difficult than a murder investigation," he said. "This could be any woman in the country."

He said his 25-man team would be reinforced by more officers today. Police have received over 500 calls from the public in response to their appeals for help. There have

been reported sightings in the north of England, the South-west and London.

Customs and immigration officers at ports and airports have been issued with "Christine's" description.

Earlier, Miss Dawn Griffiths, Alexandra's mother, pleaded at a press conference for the return of her child. "The pain is still there, it has got no easier," she said.

Comforted by her boy friend, Mr Geoffrey Harris, the baby's father, Miss Griffiths, aged 20, said: "If she could only see me now, what I am going through, what my parents and family are going through who have never seen Alexandra. Please bring her back."

Mr Bassett praised Miss Griffiths for her bravery in facing the conference. He said: "She is emotionally drained. Her day is very long and one of total despair. I don't know how she had the courage."

The artist who drew the impression of "Christine" had

the benefit of help from another mother, Mrs Patricia Hocking, who told police at the weekend that the same woman who snatched Alexandra came into her private room on another St Thomas's ward.

The woman told Mrs Hocking and her husband, Keith, that she was their health worker and asked questions about their five-day-old son, Charles.

Mr John Worsley, the artist who drew the impression of "Christine," said he believed it was a good likeness.

"Christine" is thought to be in her mid-30s with short light-brown or mousey hair. She is slightly built and about 5ft 2in tall with a pale complexion and speaks with a "working-class, slightly London accent". She was wearing boots with tall heels.

Mr Bassett believes "Christine" is possibly suffering from post-natal depression and may recently have had a miscarriage.



Miss Dawn Griffiths, the snatched baby's mother, and her boy friend, Mr Geoffrey Harris, at yesterday's press conference.

Recruitment of women

Industry threat to teacher supply

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

Industry's drive to recruit more women graduates could provoke a crisis in the supply of teachers, the chairman of the Association of Graduate Recruiters said yesterday.

Miss Helen Perkins, head of management development at Price Waterhouse, said the education system was "completely" about being able to secure a sizeable proportion of women graduates.

The number of women going into teaching after university was falling, and the demographic downturn in the coming decade would accelerate that trend.

"Business and industry are going to have to be much more flexible in the way they employ women," she said.

"Women are going to be the main target group for recruiters. Up to now education has taken the lion's share because teaching was the only job in

which women could have a family and pursue a career at the same time.

"If industry really heads out into the market place then all those women who choose teaching for what it offers will find that they can get the same benefits but at far higher salaries than teaching offers."

"This is a real challenge to

Women will be the main target group for recruiters

those who manage the teaching force and one which I believe they have so far failed to address."

Miss Perkins's comments come as the government-appointed Interim Advisory Committee on teachers' pay completes its recommendations for the rise due in April. Mr John MacGregor, Sec-

retary of State for Education and Science, has imposed a ceiling of £600 million on this year's pay round, equal to an average 7.5 per cent rise.

Miss Perkins said that if schools lost the advantage of being able to offer conditions which matched the demands of motherhood then "considerable" pay increases might be the only means of securing a share of female graduates.

One thousand Welsh supply teachers are being urged to travel to London to help ease the capital's teacher shortages after a decision by West Glamorgan County Council to cut their pay.

As a result, Mr Ioan Richard, chairman of the West Glamorgan Supply Teachers Association, is urging his members to commute to London. He said they could earn £170 a week more in London than they earned in

Swansea. Mr Richard said the Inner London Education Authority (Ilea), which has 1,288 unfilled teaching vacancies, had offered to help Welsh teachers to find cheap bed and breakfast accommodation.

"If West Glamorgan are not prepared to pay us properly we should go where we are wanted and respected," Mr Richard said.

Ilea is being urged to distribute a £1 million surplus to schools before the authority is abolished at the end of March.

The surplus has been accumulated as the authority has lost staff in the run up to the hand-over of its schools and colleges to 13 inner London boroughs on April 1.

The London branch of the National Association of Head Teachers is pressing for the money to be spent on books and equipment.

Education, page 39

Third of all graduate jobs in London and South-east

By Our Education Reporter

Britain's graduates are being forced to move south because a third of all jobs for those leaving university are located in London and the South-east.

The figures, in a quarterly survey by the central services unit (CSU) of the university and polytechnics careers services, also show that the highest starting salaries for new graduates tend to be on offer in southern England.

Poorest graduate job prospects are in Scotland, Wales, the North-east and East Anglia, according to an analysis of vacancies advertised between May and October. Each region accounted for 2 per cent of vacancies advertised in the CSU fortnightly jobs bulletin — the largest source of graduate jobs.

The North Midlands and Yorkshire accounted for 4 per cent of new graduate jobs and the South-west and the Mid-

lands each accounted for 6 per cent. The study also found that although the highest starting salaries, were paid in the South, averaging £10,120, there were some striking regional variations.

Graduates seeking work in Strathclyde and Dumfries and Galloway could expect an average of £10,263 while those taking first jobs in Clywd, Gwynedd, Powys and Dyfed averaged £10,438.

The average salary on offer in November last year was £10,386 compared to £9,311 the previous May and £9,014 in October 1988. Job vacancies grew in electronics, computing and engineering and fell in the financial sector.

Architectural students yesterday made a plea for special treatment under the Government's student loan scheme.

The National Architecture Students Association said that

the unusual length of degree courses in their subject — up to five years instead of the usual three — and the need to buy their own expensive equipment meant they would suffer special hardship under the loans plan.

The association said that architecture students spent an average of £647 a year on books and equipment compared to the national average of £172 for all undergraduates.

The Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service is to intervene in the polytechnic and college lecturers pay dispute, it was disclosed yesterday.

The Polytechnics and Colleges Employers Forum has agreed to meet Acaas officials tomorrow to discuss its 8.4 per cent pay offer, tied to changes in working conditions, for academic staff at 64 polytechnics and colleges.

Dolmatov clinches victory

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Sergei Dolmatov, aged 30, the Russian chess grandmaster from Moscow, has won first prize in the grandmaster section of the Foreign and Colonial chess tournament in Hastings, East Sussex.

In the final round played yesterday evening Dolmatov had to negotiate some difficulties posed by the American grandmaster Boris Gulko. Nevertheless, deft defence by the Russian produced a draw. That result gave Dolmatov the unbeaten score of 8½ points out of 14, having won three games and drawn 11.

At no stage was the Russian ever in serious danger of losing a game and one of his wins, a sacrificial masterpiece against Jon Speelman of Britain, will be numbered among the classics.

Predrag Nikolic, the Yugoslav grandmaster, drew his game with Michael Adams, aged 18, the British champion. That result gave Nikolic 7½ points and a share of second prize. Gulko finished on 6½ points.

The two games between Murray Chandler, of Britain, and Kevin Spraggett, of Canada, and Jon Speelman, of Britain, and Soviet grandmaster Artur Yusupov were unfinished.

Other points: Spraggett, Yusupov and Chandler, 6½ with one game unfinished; Speelman, 6 with one game unfinished; Adams, 6.

There were no valid claims for the £8,000 Portfolio Platinum weekly prize.

Your chance to win today's £2,000 prize is on page 29.

Health service Bill

Polls show unease at reform plans

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The Government has come under further pressure to modify its health service reforms after two surveys carried out among Conservative MPs and family doctors.

A study, commissioned by the Royal College of Nursing and published today, shows that 70 per cent of Conservative MPs would back an amendment to the NHS Bill to set up an independent national inspectorate to monitor standards in the health service.

Meanwhile, a survey from the Liberal Democrats shows that 94 per cent of family doctors think that patients will lose out under the Government's reforms.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, has insisted that standards should be monitored by health authorities locally and there should be no national inspectorate.

However, the RCN survey shows widespread support among Tory backbenchers for an independent watchdog to safeguard quality in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The poll, conducted by the Market Access Political Opinion Panel, also shows that 80 per cent of Tory backbenchers want to strengthen the NHS bill by setting a minimum level of standards in health

care. The RCN has drafted an amendment calling for an inspectorate, which is expected to be debated next Tuesday in committee.

Miss Christine Hancock, RCN general secretary, said: "An independent body is the only way of ensuring that consumers get high quality on a consistent basis right across the service."

The Liberal Democrats' study of 1,500 GPs shows that 84 per cent were against indicative drug budgets and 88 per cent of doctors thought that an internal market would restrict their ability to care for patients with special needs.

Only 51 per cent of doctors supported medical audits among GPs and 88 per cent were opposed to GPs being able to buy hospital care for their patients in the hospital of their choice.

At the same time the Labour Party is pressing for amendments to guarantee local provision of essential health services. Although the White Paper on the health service reforms pledged that districts would be obliged to provide "core" services locally, this was omitted from the NHS Bill.

The Labour Party fears that if services are not guaranteed locally many elderly and disabled people may be required to travel long distances.



A silver model of Sun Chariot, which is expected to go for well above its £1,500 estimate after attracting wide interest.

High price likely for trophy

SALEROOM

John Shaw

A trophy presented to Sir Gordon Richards to mark his remarkable partnership with the racehorse Sun Chariot has aroused widespread interest in the racing world prior to its sale by Sotheby's in Chester tomorrow.

The horse was owned by King George VI and an inscription on the plinth commemorates his victories in the 1942 1,000 Guineas, Oaks, and St Leger. Sun Chariot was one of only three this century to win the fillies' Triple Crown.

The model was presented to Sir Gordon, one of the most respected jockeys in British racing, by *Sporting Life* in 1954. Sir Gordon, a miner's son who became champion jockey 26 times between 1926 and 1953, died in 1986. The

trophy is being sold by a woman from Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, whose family has owned it for two generations. It is in a mixed silver sale and estimated at £1,000 to £1,500. However a much higher price is expected.

A spokesman in the silver department said: "It has attracted more inquiries than any other object in the 10 years since we set up here."

Memorabilia belonging to the late Group Captain Douglas Bader is the latest collection of material to go on sale to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

The star lot is his pilot's log book recording his early flying career. It laconically says of the accident in which Bader lost both legs: "Crashed slow-rolling near ground. Bad show."

The 22 lots of personal items, which include paintings, photographs and Battle of Britain material, are being sold by Lady Bader at Phillips in London on March 1.

Directors at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London meet today to discuss the launching of an appeal to help keep the neo-classical statue "The Three Graces", by Antonio Canova, in Britain.

The work is due to be sold to the US unless £7.6 million can be raised. The museum is hoping to stage a Canova exhibition.

Life-after-death freezing service gets a British offshoot

By Nick Nattall
Technology Correspondent

A funeral firm, claiming to offer members the chance of life after death, has been established in Britain, it was disclosed yesterday.

The service has been established by British members of Alcor Life Extension, a southern California company that freezes people who have died in the hope that scientists of the future can restore them back to life.

The package entitles subscribers to an insurance policy, an ambulance on 24-hour standby, a treatment centre near Gatwick where a person is injected with preserving fluids, and a fully insulated 6ft 6in chiller suitable for transatlantic air travel.

Mr Garret Smyth, a London neuro-science student and one of the founders of the British concern, said the cost of a whole body freeze would be about £125,000.

However, most of the British members chose to have heads "cryogenically suspended" after death — for a more modest £35,000 — in the hope that future science would not only be able to revitalize cells but "clone on" the rest of the body.

Alcor UK, formerly Misar and named after a star located in the Pleiades, was set up two years ago by Mr Smyth and some friends, including Oxford graduates.

There were now about seven members, with several others interested across Britain, and there

had been discussions with people in Italy, Germany, and France, Mr Smyth said.

Since the foundation of Alcor UK members have been concerned at the lack of facilities in the country catering for their very special needs.

With the emergency ambulance and medical centre, it is hoped that delays in preservation can be minimized and that members can get to California in tip-top condition. Special equipment is being installed at the Gatwick building for the injection and travel preparation work.

Mr Smyth said that when they had applied for planning permission, council officials had been unsure how to classify use of the premises. It was conceded that it was not

residential, he said.

Alcor UK had had assistance from a "small businessman" who, after coming close to retirement had decided to sign up for the immortality service, Mr Smyth said.

He conceded that freezing in the hope of future resurrection might be seen as bizarre but believed that, given the way science and technology was developing, it would be foolish to dismiss the possibility.

In the US several companies apart from Alcor offer an eternity service, using cryogenics or freezing.

Trans Time has 100 scientist members from the American Cryogenics Society and one of its directors is Dr Hal Sternberg, of the University of California. In the US,

ambulances carried advanced heart-lung equipment to ensure that members retired into their liquid nitrogen world in pristine condition, Mr Smyth said.

He admitted that some eventualities that might ruin members' chances of a return to a future world could not be planned for. These could include a sudden death requiring an autopsy.

He said Alcor UK would be installing a telephone soon to handle inquiries. But the company would not be offering a help line.

"We do not want people calling up at the last minute saying they always wanted to be frozen. This sort of thing takes long-term planning. It cannot be rushed."

CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY

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BBC

Conservation groups form alliance to fight break-up of quangos

By Christopher Warman

Five leading conservation groups covering England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have formed an alliance to fight the Government's proposals to break up and restructure the Nature Conservancy Council and the Countryside Commission.

Significantly, they have announced their decision today when the Government's detailed proposals are to be debated in Parliament for the first time during the Second Reading of the Environmental Protection Bill.

The alliance wants the reform plans removed from the Bill so that a review of the conservation quangos can take place.

The Bill includes plans for breaking up the Nature Conservancy Council into three separate bodies for England, Scotland and Wales. In Wales the Bill provides for the functions of the Countryside Commission to be merged with those of the NCC to establish a Countryside Council for Wales.

It is anticipated that broadly similar arrangements would be made in Scotland but that the bodies would remain separate in England.

The alliance says: "We are not opposed in principle to reform of the conservation agencies but we find the rushed manner and inconsistencies of the Government's proposals quite unacceptable."

As things stand, conservation and public enjoyment are seriously threatened."

The groups believe that a proper review, taking account of the real needs of conservation and public enjoyment into the next century, is vital. But it should be carried out as part of the Environment White Paper "rather than rushed through in this Bill".

The alliance includes the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland, the Council for National Parks, the Council for the Protection of Rural England, the Council for the Protection of Rural Wales, and the Ulster Society for the Protection of the Countryside.

It says the plans were announced without consultation and will cause confusion and falling standards.

The Bill also provides for the establishment of a Joint Committee, with representatives from each country, which will implement some of the powers of the new bodies and will be resourced by them. The alliance considers those proposals very weak.

It says that "a UK dimension for landscape conservation and public enjoyment policies, functions of the Countryside Commissions, has been completely ignored by the Government".

"This leaves strategic thinking on issues such as the National Parks and their

equivalent in Scotland out in the cold."

The Bill was also criticized by Mr Christopher Hall, chairman of the Ramblers' Association which represents 150,000 walkers. He said the Bill was "a massive dog's breakfast with mistakes, omissions and contradictions".

● The World Wide Fund for Nature yesterday called for a new Rural Resources Commission to be established, integrating conservation into development policies as a way of protecting the country's natural resources.

Such a neutral organization, the WWF says, should have neither conservation nor development as its primary remit.

● Greenpeace yesterday said that 80 MPs and nine British Euro-MPs had signed a statement calling on the Government to halt British waste dumping in the North Sea.

The organization called on the Government to turn down three new applications for licences to dump in the North Sea, the first to be applied for since the international ban on waste dumping took effect on January 1. It is believed that another 22 British dumping licences will be up for renewal during 1990.

Under the provisions of the international ban, dumping can continue if the waste does not harm the environment and if there are no land-based alternatives available.

Tebbit signals his ambitions

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Mr Norman Tebbit yesterday gave a clear signal that he is contesting the leadership of the right of the Conservative Party and is sharpening a strong interest in who succeeds Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

His comments came as Mr Christopher Patten owned up to his ambitions by saying it would be "pretty odd" if a politician of his age, 45, did not want to get to the top.

Mr Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, interviewed on *TV-am*, said:

"The political cemetery is full of people who are going to be next Prime Minister but one, two or three. But if you are in any profession or career you want to get to the top."

Mr Tebbit, who resigned from the Cabinet after the 1987 election, has returned to the limelight with his criticism of the Government's offer of full British passports to 50,000 Hong Kong families.

Yesterday Mr Tebbit said he saw himself as a standard-bearer for the right of the

party, which was short of a leadership candidate. "I am there holding up the banner, saying this is the way in which we have been successful for the past 10 years; let us not go back to the way in which we failed for the previous 10 years," he said on BBC television's *On the Record*.

The right-wing 92 group of Tory MPs has been toying with the idea of backing Mr Kenneth Baker or Mr Michael Heseltine in any future leadership contest.

A testing way to improve natural fitness

CHRIS HARRIS

By Mark Souster

Four top British amateur body-builders began two weeks of tests yesterday to find ways of increasing their physique without resorting to anabolic steroids.

Mr Andrew Hargreaves, the Conservative MP behind the Scientific, Medical, Advice and Research Techniques (Smart) project, said the aim was to help produce champion sports stars through scientific research, amid concerns that steroid abuse was increasing.

The project, the first in this country, involves experts in physiology, training, performance, diet and sports psychology. It has been privately funded by companies including American Express and Cadbury Schweppes.

"The aim is to produce peak form, performance and muscle development by using the most up-to-date technology, dietary and medical knowledge," Mr Hargreaves said.

One test involves the body-builder being submerged in a water barrel, breathing through a snorkel, while a computer measures his body fat.

The tests are being overseen by doctors at the Rayne Institute, University College Hospital, and the Nutrition Research Department of the London School of Hygiene. They will be repeated in 12 months to assess the effect.



Mr Bruce Leader, aged 27, undergoes tests at the Covent Garden Fitness Centre to assess his percentage of body fat.

Duke's wartime death Drunken crew idea 'rubbish'

By Alan Hamilton

A wrong setting on cockpit instruments caused the death of the Duke of Kent in a mysterious wartime flying accident over Scotland in 1942. An aviation historian has claimed. Neither a drunken crew nor an unauthorized joyride was responsible.

A forest of myth has grown around the death of the 39-year-old duke, father of the present Duke of Kent, Princess Alexandra and Prince Michael of Kent, who was on his way in a Sunderland flying boat on a morale-boosting visit to RAF bases in Iceland. The aircraft hit the 700ft Eagle's Rock in Caithness, killing 14 crew and leaving only one survivor, who died in Scotland 12 years ago without disclosing the full story.

Since then it has been

suggested that the crew were drunk, because they were carrying bottles of whisky as hospitality for RAF messes, and that the duke insisted on flying over Dunrobin Castle, home of the Duke of Sutherland, to wave at friends on the ground.

Mr Roy Nesbit, a wartime RAF Coastal Command navigator and now an aviation historian, says in an article in the February issue of the journal *Aeroplane Monthly* that the crash was caused by a wrong setting on the flying boat's gyro-magnetic compass, a new piece of equipment with which the crew were unfamiliar.

"Any theories of joyriding or drinking by the crew are absolute rubbish." Not only were the instruments unreli-

able, the crew had not flown together before.

"They were flying in cloud, and the proper practice at that time was to descend out of the cloud and make visual contact with the surface of the sea. They were misled by their instruments into thinking they were over water. Someone had set the compass incorrectly."

When the crew thought the aircraft was flying over water up the east coast of northern Scotland, it was 13 degrees off course to the west, over land. Mr Nesbit studied previously unpublished contemporary records of the flight, and used his own knowledge of wartime flying to eliminate all other possible instrument or pilot error. The official explanation given at the time of the crash was pilot error.

Penalties proposed for reckless skiers

By Philip Webster

Tough penalties are being proposed to clamp down on reckless skiing in European resorts.

Skiers in the Alps are likely to be supervised by ski patrols soon, who will have powers to warn them about the way they are skiing and to ban them from the mountain.

Offenders would be penalized under a "totting up" system and persistent wrongdoers would have their lift passes confiscated. Skiers whose dangerous behaviour causes a risk to others could be fined in court.

The proposals have been made by Professor Franz Hoppichler, head of the renowned Austrian ski school system and an expert on ski technique and instruction.

Professor Hoppichler, who

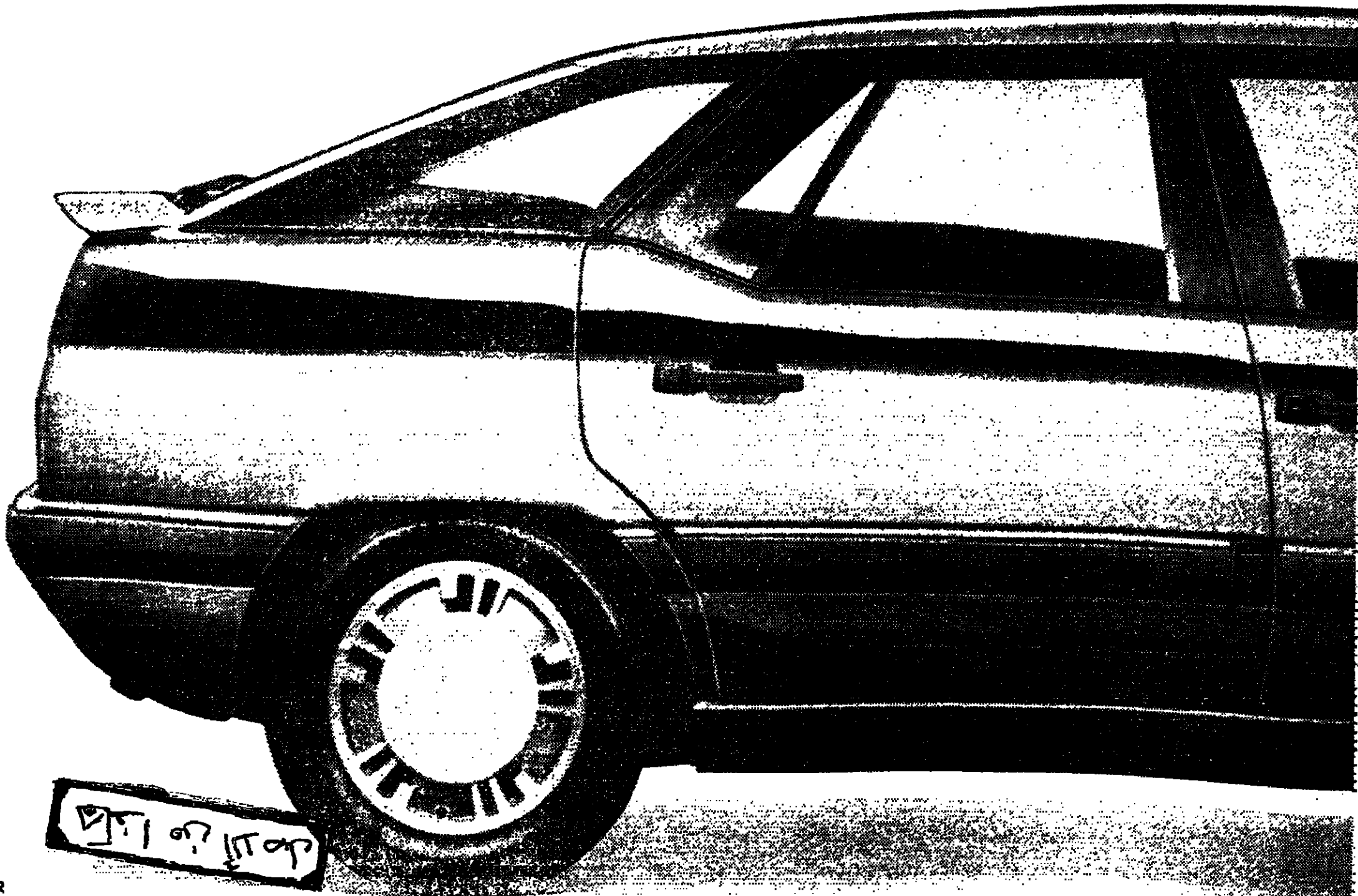
is based in St Anton, Austria, is also president of Inter Ski, the world-wide organization of ski schools. Its conference is to be held in St Anton next January and safety will be a key issue.

The professor, aged 58, said at the weekend that there is growing alarm about tourists skiing too fast and beyond their ability.

He said although improved equipment has cut the accident rate, it has encouraged people to ski too fast.

His proposals will be discussed by Austrian skiing and government officials this month. He wants an international body established to set standards, although he said the countries with resorts must bring in legislation to allow for tougher penalties.

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Tory authorities say they need to spend more

Patten faces protest over 'unrealistic' poll tax levies

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, this week faces a barrage of criticism from some of the most loyal Conservative-controlled local authorities in the country, including the London Borough of Wandsworth, often called the jewel in the party's local crown.

From Portsmouth in Hampshire to Rushcliffe in Nottinghamshire, Conservative councillors are protesting that the recommended poll tax levels announced by the Department of the Environment for 1990-91 fall a long way short of what they will have to budget for.

The Government said last week that councils need to levy an average poll tax of £278 per adult in 1990-91 and anything in excess of that would be a sign of local profligacy and bad management. Many Labour councils are certain to exceed that figure by a large amount, up to an extra £300 per head in Haringey, north London.

However, local Conservatives will cause Mr Patten more political embarrassment. Mr Ian Gibson, Tory leader of Portsmouth, had a letter delivered to him over the weekend complaining

about the publication of "misleading figures".

He said: "These figures from the DoE are unobtainable, as Chris Patten knows. They're just not factual. How can they be when the allowance for inflation Portsmouth's been given is only 1.5 per cent?"

Conservative local authorities are incensed that the department has urged the public to judge a council's efficiency on the basis of its figures, although the figures depend on grants and other calculations outside the control of the town halls.

Mr John Saxton, chief executive of the Conservative

borough of Rushcliffe, Nottinghamshire, has asked the department: "How are we going to explain how, overnight, as a result of changed grant arrangements, Rushcliffe is transformed from the council levying the lowest rate in Nottinghamshire to the council levying the highest community charge?"

A spokeswoman for Wandsworth council said: "We dissociate ourselves from these figures. They are not an accurate reflection of our actual expenditure or our need to spend."

According to the Department of the Environment, Wandsworth need levy a poll tax of only £177 per head, the lowest figure in London. Although the council's poll tax will not be wildly in excess, it is certain to be much more than that figure.

Conservative-controlled Bromley council has been set a poll tax target of £269 a adult. However, Mr David Bartlett, the borough treasurer, said he would be filing in his legal duty if he did not warn his councillors that the figure was "unrealistic".

He said the department's provision was inadequate

when a 1 per cent increase in Bromley's pay bill could add £4.25 per adult per year to the local poll tax bill.

The Government has particularly offended Conservative councils which attempted to keep their rates down in 1989 by drawing on reserves. The department has counted their spending from reserves as normal expenditure in calculating the target poll tax figures.

Mr Bartlett said: "To assume that councils which have run down their balance can repeat that withdrawal is a bit unfair to say the least."

Many councils are unhappy with the official estimate of what they need to spend on schools, new buildings and other local services.

Portsmouth is worried that Hampshire County Council, also controlled by Conservatives, will spend more than the official estimate, forcing Portsmouth and the other Hampshire districts to pass the excess on to their poll tax payers. If the county, which has yet to set its 1990-91 budget, spends 1 per cent more than the official expenditure assessment, Portsmouth would have to ask for an extra £7 an adult each year.



Mr Patten: Upsetting loyal Conservative councillors.

Facelift for a queen

MARK PEPPER



Final cleaning being done to the restored statue of Queen Victoria standing over the main entrance to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The whole façade is being cleaned.

Pension pay cuts for some clergy

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Editor

Some Church of England clergy aged over 65 are having the amount they receive in state retirement pension cut from their pay, while others are being allowed to keep it, the Church Commissioners have confirmed.

The commissioners have left it to each diocese to decide how to respond to the relaxation of the "earnings rule" for state pensioners.

The church is likely to be urged to impose a uniform rule across the country at a meeting next month. Church sources said most dioceses have decided to let clergy keep their pension.

Anyone choosing not to retire at 65 is allowed to draw a state pension. Clergy deciding not to retire at that age can still draw their clerical stipend as well as their pension.

Their pay is in some cases being reduced by an amount equal to the pension, not by reducing the basic stipend but by cutting the "augmentation" payment, a supplement to clergy pay which comes out of diocesan funds. They only become eligible for a clergy pension when they retire, which they can do at 65, although some carry on to 70.

One diocese, Bath and Wells, has told Mr Derek Halsall, a rector in Yeovil, that the diocese could save £20,000 a year by this means. "It seems to me so unfair that the state pension should be deducted," he said.

The Church Commissioners said they had issued guidance to dioceses asking them to ensure that no clergyman's income fell below the nationally agreed minimum after relaxation of the earnings rule.

Former judge predicts 'death of juries'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The gradual erosion of the jury system leading to the "death of juries" for civil trials such as defamation and in many criminal trials has been forecast by a retired High Court judge.

Sir James Comyn writes in the *Justice of the Peace* journal that recent events and cases in the past few years "would seem to suggest that juries are on their way out for defamation". Their judgments had become controversial, particularly on damages. "I would forecast that within 10 years we will see the death of juries for all civil cases in England".

Sir James says although the jury system is theoretically sacred in the criminal courts, there were severe critics, particularly of the use of juries in long, complex and technical trials. "I think we will finally soon see juries dispensed with

in criminal trials and those (long and short) involving complicated technical questions," he says.

Although sure that juries will survive for many years in such serious, contested criminal cases as murder, manslaughter, robbery, rape and sexual offences, Sir James says he can foresee the system gradually being eroded.

The jury system would fairly soon start to disappear in those criminal cases where its use had been criticized, and gradually be eroded in the rest, becoming "the exception rather than the rule".

He describes himself "very much a jury man", but predicts that an assessors system would replace juries but "fairly soon thereafter" that would give way to "judge alone".

He feared that current thinking would lead people away "from judges altogether (or in many cases) to some sort of lay tribunal, which I think would soon prove disastrous". Juries were "valuable in

many civil cases and all serious criminal cases".

A nationwide marketing campaign to boost a new company joined by nearly 700 solicitors' firms in England and Wales to promote their role as a source of independent financial advice to the public is to go ahead in March. The Solicitors' Financial and Property Services Company is to be launched with a £70,000 advertising campaign.

Advertisements which have appeared in the legal press have been described as misleading by the National Consumer Council and the Legal Action Group. They said the advertisement gave the impression the company would be giving advice when it would come from Sedgwick, the brokers linked to the company. Mr Richard Pearce, chief executive of the company, said the advertisements were issued as drafts and he did not believe it was intended that they should be the final version.

Secret checks exonerate RAF low-flyers

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

Random checks by an RAF unit using a hidden radar system to catch jet fighters flying below the legal limit over training areas in Britain have proved negative, according to sources yesterday.

The special unit has been deployed covertly in some of the key low-flying training

areas in Northumberland, Yorkshire and the Borders since last summer, equipped with a new Skyguard radar which can accurately judge an aircraft's height and speed and record it on video tape.

After last week's mid-air collision between a Jaguar and a Tornado near Hexham in

Northumberland, apparently during low-level sorties, the RAF is expected to come under increasing pressure to tighten up flight programming in the busy training areas.

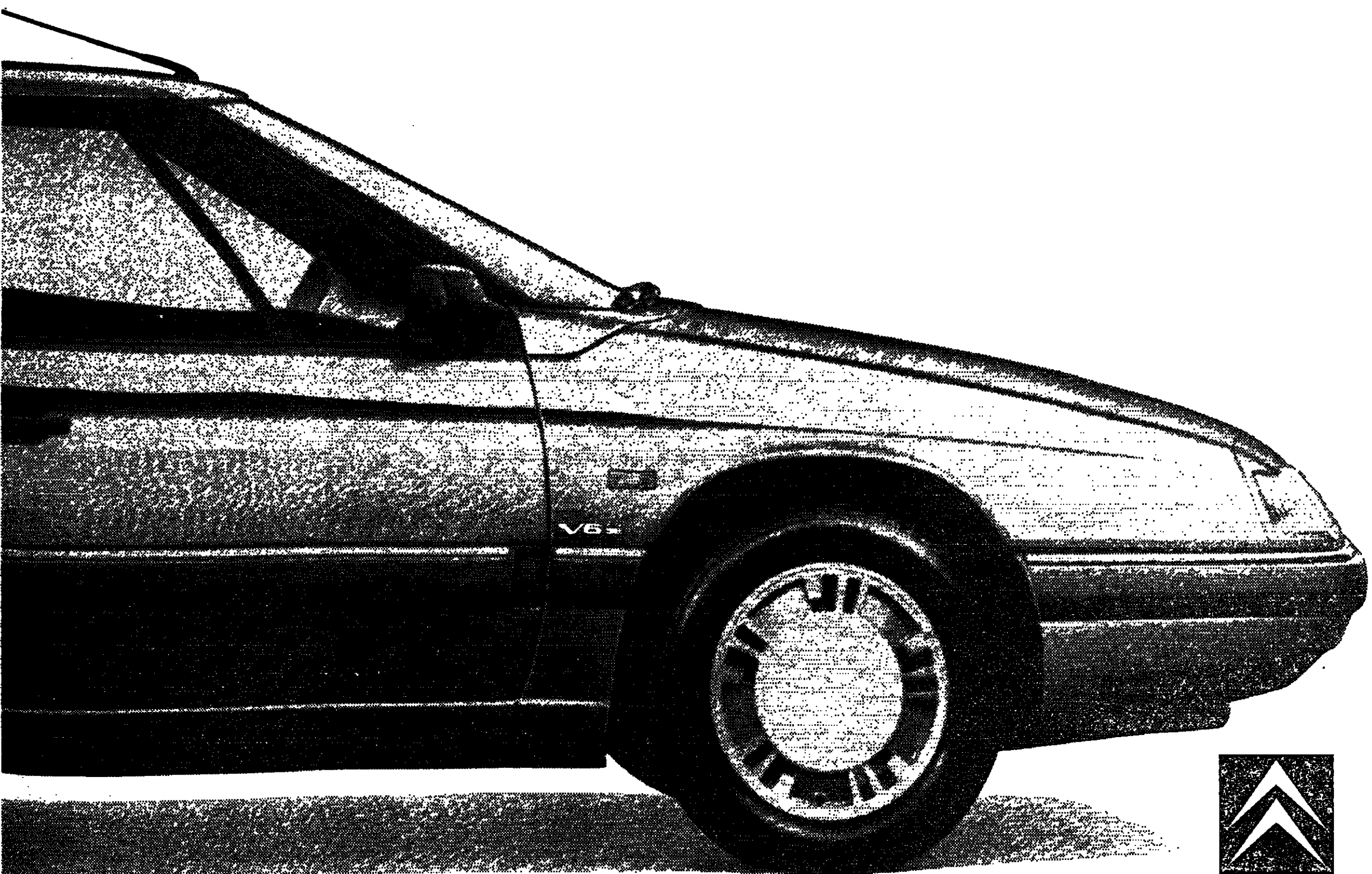
The RAF sources however said the Skyguard tests proved that pilots were not breaching the regulations which, except

in certain areas, ban flying below 250ft.

Last year nine RAF men were killed in aircraft incidents, although only a few involved low flying.

Sources said that in 10 years no civilians had been killed as a result of a low-flying accident.

PEAN CAR OF THE YEAR, 1990.



Gorbachov fails to deflect Lithuania's independence drive

From Michael Binyon, Vilnius

President Gorbachov flew back to Moscow on Saturday after three hectic days here which left Lithuania impressed by his political skill and dedication to reform but unconvinced by his attempt to turn back the republic's march to full independence.

Mr Algirdas Brazauskas, the secretary of the breakaway Lithuanian Communist Party, will today give a press conference to explain why he is standing firm against the Soviet leader's repeated warnings that independence could have unforeseen consequences for Lithuania as well as for the political, economic and ethnic links between all the Soviet Union's 15 republics.

Mr Brazauskas, a strong supporter of perestroika, accompanied Mr Gorbachov on his unprecedented round of meetings with factory and farm workers, discussions with intellectuals and impromptu street-corner debates with outspoken citizens waving pro-independence banners and unafraid to challenge some of Soviet society's most sacred assumptions.

Mr Brazauskas is likely to echo the feelings of fellow-Lithuanians in paying tribute to the Soviet leader's role in making such political discussions possible. But neither he nor the more openly nationalistic Sajudis movement are satisfied with promises of a new form of federation. They want to see the fruit of Mr Gorbachov's guarded assurances of swift laws to enable republics to make use of their constitutional right of secession.

Mr Gorbachov called again and again for patience and a cooling of emotions. "It would be a tragedy if we rushed towards a nationalist wilderness," he said.

He appeared ready to accept a multi-party system - provided it supported perestroika and was in the interests of society - and even called for co-operation with moderate elements in Sajudis, while condemning "separatists, extremists and provocateurs".

He emphasized, however, that a multi-party democracy was no panacea, and said there needed to be more responsible analysis of reforms that could affect the nation's fate for the next 10, 20 or even 50 years.

He also gave a veiled warning that many in the Soviet party's Central Committee had wanted to take "the toughest measures" against the Lithuanian party's split.

Of a man who said an independent party could speed up perestroika in Lithuania if it remained in the union, Mr Gorbachov demanded to know how the Soviet party could discuss the whole nation's future, including Lithuania's, if the Lithuanian party did not take part in the debate.

Mr Gorbachov's tone was often hectoring and he constantly wagged his finger at questioners. People yesterday complained that he had lectured them too much and had listened too little.

But several Lithuanians suggested that his real audience in the nationwide television coverage of his visit had not been the Lithuanians, but the conservatives in Russia, where he warned of a backlash.

Lithuanians, revelling in the world's attention, are pouring

before embarking on a lengthy lecture about Lithuania's history and the time when, in alliance with Poland, it ruled a swathe of territory from the Baltic to the Black Sea.

In Vilnius the once banned flag of independent Lithuania flies over the party headquarters and government building.

Along Gedimino Street, the cobbled main thoroughfare until recently called Lenin Avenue, a huge banner proclaims: "Lithuania without sovereignty is a Lithuania without a future".

The official news agency displays pictures of the recent candlelit vigils and huge rallies in Cathedral Square, where tens of thousands of people held up placards saying: "Occupation is a real tragedy for Lithuania".

Something of a Central European feel has already returned to Vilnius, a city of about 500,000. Bells pealed over the city yesterday as people flocked to church - most of them old women whose lined faces reflected the suffering many of them had seen. But there were also young people, influenced by the resurgent Roman Catholic Church recently given back the cathedral and now a powerful focus of national feeling.

Chopin piano music came from somewhere behind the elaborate turn of the century facades of the three-storey buildings in Gedimino Street. A new notice advertised an information agency to help people set up co-operatives or rent flats. The many little cafes and private restaurants were getting ready for their evening customers.

The external trappings are still redolent of the Soviet Union: plaques on the walls marking the former residences of Communist leaders, overcrowded trolley buses, ugly office blocks, money-changing touts, bushy fur hats, sparsely lit streets, clean streets and the pervasive smell of low-grade petrol.

Lenin still stands in a main square, arm outstretched and striding purposefully forward with his back to the church. There were even some flowers at the foot of the statue yesterday.

Whether the party Lenin led will remain recognizably communist in Lithuania is the burning question for his successor. Mr Gorbachov has perhaps bought time and sympathy here, but little else.

our their aspirations to some 150 foreign journalists and television crews here. An elderly chemical engineer from the Academy of Sciences, who lived through both the war and persecution under Stalin, said everyone understood Mr Gorbachov's delicate position and did not want either an explosion or precipitate action that could wreck everything. "It is down in the south that the real trouble will come," he said.

Nevertheless, national emotions run high, and Lithuanians on the train from Moscow have no inhibitions nowadays about voicing their views to foreigners. "Our aim is full independence. Surely there is room for three million of us - just a tiny little corner of the Soviet Union," one man said.

Azerbaijani nationalism

Autonomy is long-term aim for powerful People's Front

By Hahzir Temoorian

The nationalist movement in Soviet Azerbaijan is being led by the People's Front, a loose coalition of nationalist and Islamic groups. Officially recognized last October, it is now credited with being the real power in the land, having pushed the Azerbaijan Communist Party into the background.

Mr Ali-Asgar Siabof, the head of its information office, said from Baku last night that the Front's immediate demands were for "resolute action by Moscow to protect the lives of Azerbaijani villagers in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh enclave in neighbouring Armenia, and a clear proclamation that Nagorno-Karabakh would remain an administrative part of Azerbaijan."

He claimed a months-long Armenian blockade of Azerbaijani villages in the enclave had left them dependent on precarious supplies from Azerbaijan.

The Front's long-term demands were: full autonomy for the republic within the Soviet state; the right of unrestricted association with Iranian Azerbaijan; and an end to what Mr Siabof called the "stongly pro-Armenian bias of the Kremlin".

He claimed there was an influential Armenian lobby in Moscow and in the Western press.

Led by Mr Abolfaz Aliof, a former dissident under Leonid Brezhnev, the Front's ultimate aim would seem to be a reunified Azerbaijan.

Islamic activists within the Front would like closer links with the Islamic revolution in Tehran to follow a complete break with the Soviet Union.

The other main organization active now is the Fatherland Society which, despite its name, has placed its hopes in President Gorbachov's perestroika. It is headed by Mr Neimat Panakhov, aged 27, a train driver who lives in a workers' hostel and has refused a government offer of a flat because he would be "jumping the queue". Mr

Panakhov, who is sometimes described as "the Lech Walesa of Azerbaijan", says that he believes "free Russians", Azerbaijanis and Armenians will one day see the dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh as a cynical diversion. "What I hate most in the world is nationalism. My ultimate aim is for people to be allowed to be people, real people, not brainwashed robots."

An Azerbaijani observer said yesterday that he believed the Fatherland Society would win a majority of the seats in the parliamentary elections in the republic. "Excitement runs high at present. But in the calmer atmosphere that will follow, Azerbaijanis will realize that they cannot change the frontiers of Soviet Union for some time yet."

● Nicosia: Mr Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian Foreign Minister, flew to Tabriz, the capital of Iranian Azerbaijan, at the weekend to prepare for visits by Soviet Azerbaijanis seeking easier access to Iran (Reuters reports).

broken out in several Albanian towns, including Shkoder, the medieval town about nine miles away.

Tanjung has retracted this information, quoting diplomats in the capital, Tirana, as saying that nothing unusual had been detected. This assertion has also been

There is nothing that could even in the wildest imagination be seen as a sign of emergency

substantiated by other Western diplomats as well as a Yugoslav businessman who said he had visited several Albanian towns and found no evidence of unrest.

The presence of police on the streets is part of normal life. The fact that traffic at

the Albanian frontier crossing is rare and that individual travel by Albanians practically does not exist is also normal. Those rare individuals who cross the border all hold foreign passports.

In other frontier crossings at Cafasan in Macedonia, above Lake Ohrid, and at Bozaja, the situation seemed normal, with Yugoslav frontier guards relaxing and trying to relieve the boredom by playing ball games.

A Western diplomat, who like many others stationed in the Albanian capital goes on shopping weekends to Yugoslavia, was emphatic in denying reports of unrest or emergency measures. The only thing that might remotely suggest official nervousness is that controls on vehicles are more frequent and luggage and documents more thoroughly checked.

In Shkoder where, according to reports in the Yugoslav and Greek media,

the former headquarters to see the empty rooms for themselves. In Gera and Suhl in the south, however, the service appears to be operating as before.

The Ministry of State Security, the repressive prop of the former regime, was widely despised even by the "little people", as its unofficial workers were known.

It has not been revealed how many East Germans helped the state security agency in return for preferential treatment on the waiting list for houses or some minor privilege: with many of the Stasi's files destroyed by workers anxious to cover their trail, it probably never will be. The

Government has admitted, however, that the service had 80,000 full-time workers.

Herr Erich Mielke, the despised former chief of the Stasi, is now in prison on charges of corruption and abuse of office. He was the right-hand man of Herr Erich Honecker, the former leader, and personally issued the orders to police and security forces to proceed "with all violence" to disperse demonstrations in October.

Since his dismissal, Herr Mielke's claim to fame has been a memorable valedictory before the Volkskammer (parliament) defending the ministry with the claim: "We are the sons and daughters of the

working class. We worked for you. I still love you all."

The ministry was dissolved - to jubilation across East Germany - only to be immediately replaced by the Office of National Security. The only apparent difference was that the new version had public relations skills.

Herr Wolfgang Schwanz, a smooth, rosy-cheeked man, took over the office from the overtly tough Herr Mielke and appeared at numerous press conferences where he deflected accusations against the new office with rare skill. He was unseated after it emerged that Stasi workers were removing bundles of incriminating files, even while

broken off last week. In a statement yesterday he told the opposition that he was not free to attend, but an official would be present to deliver the required statement.

Herr Wolfgang Schuur, of Democratic Awakening and spokesman for the opposition, criticized Herr Modrow's refusal to attend as "arrogance and obstinacy" and accused the Government of not listening to the demands of the people.

Herr Hans Modrow, the Prime Minister, left, has refused to attend the talks to give an account of security in the country, as demanded by the opposition when the talks were

praising smiling workers for exceeding targets.

Political and economic changes now shaking the rest of Communist Europe seems to be having no real impact on this xenophobic country, where the Soviet Union has been regarded as a renegade

young Albanians recently demonstrated and where another Yugoslav report claimed several demonstrators were publicly hanged, there are no signs of a state of emergency at all according to one diplomat, who wished to be unnamed.

Nor have the Yugoslav frontier guards detected anything unusual. The frontier post is being kept open throughout the day until 10 pm. The driver of the train which travels twice a day between Shkoder and Titograd on the Yugoslav side said the routine had not varied in the past week.

The railway line linking Albania to Yugoslavia and the rest of Europe was opened four years ago, but the Albanians insisted it be limited to transporting goods and not people, which makes it the loneliest railway line in the world.

Albanian television is as boringly normal as ever. It shows President Ali shaking hands with a foreign envoy and

Accused on parade as Romania slips into old ways



In the spotlight: Valentin Ceausescu, top, the adopted son of the executed dictator, Dumitru Popescu, centre, and Tudor Postelnicu paraded on TV.

Chaos and fear dog path of revolution

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

Romania today is a country in a state of political chaos, with a confused population struggling to come to terms with a revolution that has no ideological framework.

In Bucharest the uncertainty is so great that the people live almost from hour to hour, surviving on a diet of rumours. The rapid evaporation of the early post-Ceausescu euphoria has resulted in a return of old habits, with Romanians resorting to whispering lest their views be noted by Securitate men they are convinced are working for the ruling National Salvation Front in a different guise.

The Front's faltering grip on power has already collapsed in Timisoara, where the Army is holding the ring in what many intellectuals fear may be a rehearsal for a wider assumption of control.

The scenes last Friday night outside the Front's offices, when a totally unrepresentative crowd (many of whose members were incoherent after a day-long vodka binge) voiced their opposition to many government policies, have brought home to ordinary Romanians the difficulty of controlling so-called "people's power".

"Having seen a dictatorship crumble, there are many Romanians determined to continue flexing their muscles. They will not be satisfied until they have got more," said a chemistry student. "They talk about democracy, but they have no experience of what that is or how it works."

This point was taken up by Mr Mihai Lupoi, the new Minister of Tourism and a former army architect (with no previous administrative experience), one of a number of new ministers disillusioned by the attitude of the former top Communists who make up the bulk of the Front's political leadership.

Struggling to restore confidence in the tourist industry, which is being touted as one of the country's main earners of much-needed foreign currency, Mr Lupoi tells journalists how Mr Ion Iliescu, the interim President, and Mr Petre Roman, the Prime Minister, refuse to answer their telephones to discuss the problems facing a ministry where most of the former Communist bureaucrats are still in place, hoping for his early departure.

"When everything at the top is confused, people down at the bottom take profit of that and the chaos begins," he said. "The people ask for democracy, but they do not know what democracy is. They think that, starting from now, they can ask for anything and get it instantly. They do not have any education in politics. They were in the dark for many years and now this very strong light has blinded them."

The generous influx of foreign aid, much of it being openly pilfered because of the absence of any effective distribution system, is serving to keep public discontent at a manageable level, says Mr Lupoi. But in a few

weeks the food situation is likely to have deteriorated. Already a mob of orphans, claiming to have received no aid at all, have stormed the city's main press hotel.

Because of the absence of any viable political superstructure, even the best intentioned members of the Front are faced with a dilemma: if they rush elections in April as planned, no one else will be in a position to contest them properly; and if they delay, the deep discontent with their unrepresentative hold on power will grow until it explodes.

One of the main topics to be heard in the poorly stocked shops of Bucharest is the latest rumour about a new demonstration. On Saturday, many people were convinced that a fleet of heavy trucks had been dispatched to bring angry workers into the city centre, but nothing materialized.

In this atmosphere of uncertainty, tinged with concern about the future of the Army's role, the seven fledgling political parties have yet to inspire confidence that they have the

Bucharest (Reuter) - Romanian mathematicians, cut off from the outside world by Ceausescu, have appealed for help in catching up on research. An open letter with 100 signatures has appealed to foreign mathematicians to supply the latest mathematical literature.

personnel or the expertise to handle the running of such a volatile country.

Typical of the new breed of aspiring politician is Mr Nicolae Costel, a founder of the new Christian Democratic Party of Romania, whose platform is the abolition of the Communist Party's dominant role in Romanian life and the privatization of industry.

Mr Costel does his work as a school administrator at night to leave the day free for politicking. Showing signs of lack of sleep, he functions mainly from a sofa in the lobby of the Intercontinental Hotel. So far he has attracted 1,000 members. But despite eloquence and phenomenal energy, he leaves the impression that his new party, one of the most politically coherent to emerge, would have problems running a village in the Carpathian mountains, let alone a crisis-ridden country of 23 million struggling to come to terms with freedom for the first time since the Communists took power 42 years ago.

A decision by the Front to reverse its controversial bid to take part in the elections, a postponement of any poll until September and a further injection of massive foreign humanitarian and economic aid remain the best chance of averting a second blood-bath. But as the Poles, facing empty food shops, have discovered, there is no instant solution to how a deep-rooted communist structure can be successfully or painlessly replaced overnight.

Ghost of the Stasi refuses to lie down

From Anne McElvoy East Berlin

Like a persistent ghost from the shameful past, East Germany's despised Stasi security service returns weekly to dog the process of atonement between the Government and opposition.

The future of the round-table talks, dominated since their inception by arguments about the future of security, is still not guaranteed, in spite of the eleventh-hour assurance from Herr Hans Modrow, the Prime Minister, that no new security office would be founded until after the elections in May.

Herr Modrow sacked Herr Peter Koch, the government official charged with dissolving the Office of National Security, on Friday night, making him the latest in a string of casualties as the state security machine devours its own favoured children.

At last week's session of the talks, Herr Koch had admitted that he had dismissed only a third of the 80,000 permanent Stasi workers still on the Government's books.

In Leipzig yesterday it was announced that the state security headquarters was no longer functioning and opposition groups were invited into



Modrow snubs Berlin talks

East Berlin - The round-table talks between the Government and opposition groups are set to resume today in East Berlin with one of the main conditions set by the opposition for their continuation still unfulfilled (Anne McElvoy writes).

Herr Hans Modrow, the Prime Minister, left, has refused to attend the talks to give an account of security in the country, as demanded by the opposition when the talks were

broken off last week. In a statement yesterday he told the opposition that he was not free to attend, but an official would be present to deliver the required statement.

Herr Wolfgang Schuur, of Democratic Awakening and spokesman for the opposition, criticized Herr Modrow's refusal to attend as "arrogance and obstinacy" and accused the Government of not listening to the demands of the people.

praising smiling workers for exceeding targets.

Political and economic changes now shaking the rest of Communist Europe seems to be having no real impact on this xenophobic country, where the Soviet Union has been regarded as a renegade

young Albanians recently demonstrated and where another Yugoslav report claimed several demonstrators were publicly hanged, there are no signs of a state of emergency at all according to one diplomat, who wished to be unnamed.

Nor have the Yugoslav frontier guards detected anything unusual. The frontier post is being kept open throughout the day until 10 pm. The driver of the train which travels twice a day between Shkoder and Titograd on the Yugoslav side said the routine had not varied in the past week.

The railway line linking Albania to Yugoslavia and the rest of Europe was opened four years ago, but the Albanians insisted it be limited to transporting goods and not people, which makes it the loneliest railway line in the world.

Albanian television is as boringly normal as ever. It shows President Ali shaking hands with a foreign envoy and

All quiet on the Albanian front as supposed crisis fails to materialize

From Dossa Trevisan Bozaja, Yugoslav-Albanian border

Western diplomats in Albania yesterday scorned suggestions that Europe's last bastion of communism was in the grip of a crisis. Last week's reports of special emergency measures in response to increasing unrest so far appear to be wishful thinking.

There is no visible sign of tension, let alone of the special security which Albanian authorities were alleged to have imposed. At the Yugoslav-Albanian frontier, the situation appeared as normal as it has been for years, with a rare motorist coming in to break the monotonous boredom at this frontier post.

On Friday, the official Yugoslav news agency Tanjug, quoting reliable sources, announced that special emergency measures were imposed in Albania following demonstrations that were alleged to have

broken out in several Albanian towns, including Shkoder, the medieval town about nine miles away.

Tanjung has retracted this information, quoting diplomats in the capital, Tirana, as saying that nothing unusual had been detected. This assertion has also been

There is nothing that could even in the wildest imagination be seen as a sign of emergency

substantiated by other Western diplomats as well as a Yugoslav businessman who said he had visited several Albanian towns and found no evidence of unrest.

The presence of police on the streets is part of normal life. The fact that traffic at

the Albanian frontier crossing is rare and that individual travel by Albanians practically does not exist is also normal. Those rare individuals who cross the border all hold foreign passports.

In other frontier crossings at Cafasan in Macedonia, above Lake Ohrid, and at Bozaja, the situation seemed normal, with Yugoslav frontier guards relaxing and trying to relieve the boredom by playing ball games.

A Western diplomat, who like many others stationed in the Albanian capital goes on shopping weekends to Yugoslavia, was emphatic in denying reports of unrest or emergency measures. The only thing that might remotely suggest official nervousness is that controls on vehicles are more frequent and luggage and documents more thoroughly checked.

In Shkoder where, according to reports in the Yugoslav and Greek media,

young Albanians recently demonstrated and where another Yugoslav report claimed several demonstrators were publicly hanged, there are no signs of a state of emergency at all according to one diplomat, who wished to be unnamed.

Nor have the Yugoslav frontier guards detected anything unusual. The frontier post is being kept open throughout the day until 10 pm. The driver of the train which travels twice a day between Shkoder and Titograd on the Yugoslav side said the routine had not varied in the past week.

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logical continuation. Diplomats in the Albanian capital, however, believe that there are growing differences within the Albanian leadership and that a showdown may not be far off. In Tirana, Rumours persist that a Central Committee meeting is to take place this week.

In the past any showdown in the power struggle ended in blood. The last victim was Mr Mehmet Shehu, the former Prime Minister, who after a stormy session in which he was accused of spying for practically the whole world was alleged to have committed suicide.

On the face of it at least, Mr Ramiz Alia seems to be firmly in the saddle. But rumours of his disagreement with Mrs Naxhmija Hoxha, the widow of the Albanian dictator, Enver Hoxha, persist among the small Western diplomatic circle. Although he owes his political career to Hoxha, Mr Alia is regarded as more of a pragmatist.

For Albania's leaders, the evil did not begin with Gorbachov, but with Khrushchev

It was he who first embarked on "revisionist" policies which the Albanians said amounted to restoring capitalism. Perestroika is seen as merely a

For 30 years. For Albania's leaders, the evil did not begin with Gorbachov, but with Khrushchev.

THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Sofia crowd calls for end to party rule

From Michael Hornsby, Sofia

A huge crowd calling for an end to Communist Party rule gathered outside the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in the centre of Sofia yesterday in the biggest pro-democracy demonstration since Mr Todor Zhivkov, Bulgaria's former ruler, was deposed by reformist colleagues just over two months ago.

The demonstration came as the National Assembly prepared to meet in special session today to redeem a pledge by the new leadership to abolish the Communist Party's guaranteed monopoly of political power, a move which could dramatically accelerate Bulgaria's progress to pluralist democracy.

Braving sub-zero temperatures, about 50,000 people filled the square to applaud and cheer speakers from the Union of Democratic Forces, the loose alliance of trade union, civil rights and political groups that has emerged as the main opposition movement.

The demonstrators raised their arms in victory salutes and waved cartoons of Mr Zhivkov - with a swastika on a chain round his neck - and banners calling for him to be put on trial.

There were repeated chants of "Down with communism" and "Resign, resign" whenever the Communist Party was mentioned. There were calls for the property and bank accounts of party officials to be seized and the security police to be disbanded.

A few policemen kept watch on the meeting, which would have been unthinkable under the previous regime, but made no attempt to interfere. A Western diplomat said it was only the second demonstration of its kind since Mr Zhivkov was removed on November 10, but was far bigger and more vehement in its demands.

Representatives of the Union of Democratic Forces are tomorrow to begin the first session of long-awaited round-table talks with the new

reformist Communist leadership headed by Mr Petar Mladenov, who previously served as Mr Zhivkov's Foreign Minister. Mr Mladenov announced a month ago that the Communist Party was prepared to relinquish its "leading role".

The Criminal Code has also been amended to permit public criticism of the state. New laws on freedom of assembly and association are on the way, and free elections have been promised for spring.

Mr Petko Simionov, a senior figure in the opposition movement, told yesterday's meeting that Article One of the Constitution must go. "All of it, all of it," the crowd shouted back. The article has three clauses, one of which refers to the leading role of the party while the other two describe Bulgaria as a socialist state governed by the working class.

Opposition sources said yesterday that, while the new leadership had shown willingness to abandon the Communist Party's leading role, it was still resisting the repeal of the clauses in Article One. It seems unlikely, however, that this resistance can be maintained for much longer.

Mr Simionov said that, in the round-table talks, the opposition would insist on the dismantling of all links between the state and the Communist Party, the complete separation of legislative, executive and judicial powers, and the right of all political parties to own newspapers and have access to radio and television.

He also said that the promised elections would not give the fledgling non-Communist political groups time to organize and prepare, adding that the poll should be only a "partial one". He did not explain what this meant, but said that full-scale elections should be postponed until November.

Only a week ago the same Sofia square was filled with thousands of conservative Bulgarian nationalists who shouted down Mr Georgi Atanasov, the Prime Minister, when he tried to defend the leadership's decision of December 29 to restore the cultural and religious rights which had been taken away from the mainly Turkish-speaking Muslim minority by Mr Zhivkov.



Some of the 50,000 anti-communist demonstrators demanding an end to the party's automatic rule in Sofia yesterday.

Former dissident wins Hungarian by-election seat

Budapest, Reuter - A leading Hungarian opposition politician has boosted his liberal Alliance of Free Democrats in the run-up to general elections by winning a parliamentary by-election in central Budapest.

Mr Gaspar Miklos Tamas, a prominent dissident before Communist rule over Hungary disintegrated last year, took 55 per cent of the vote in Saturday's poll, the last real test of public opinion before the March 25 national multi-party elections.

An independent candidate backed by the Socialist Party, the new name for the Communist Party which collapsed last October, polled about 33 per cent and a third candidate about 11 per cent.

Mr Tamas, a philosopher aged 41, is the first former dissident in Hungary to win a seat in Parliament.

Four by-elections last summer - the first free elections in Hungary in more than four decades - were won by the Hungarian Democratic Forum, an opposition centre party with nationalist and Christian Democratic elements.

election, which was not contested by the Forum, was held to fill a vacancy created by the appointment of Dr Peter Varkonyi, a former Foreign Minister, as Ambassador to Washington. The March poll will be Hungary's first national parliamentary election to be held since 1947.

"The general elections will be a watershed in Hungarian history," a jubilant Mr Tamas said after the results were announced. "It seems our message of liberal democracy has got through. And, if we could do this in such a problematic constituency in such a problematic period, then it might be slightly more comfortable in the general elections when the thing is not about the next two months but about the nation's future."

Mr Tamas tried to stand in the same constituency at elections five years ago as a symbolic gesture against the one-party communist system. But his attempt was blocked by the Communists' packing of nomination meetings.

The Alliance of Free Democrats sees itself as a liberal party in the West European tradition, supporting individual freedoms.

Saturday's Budapest by-

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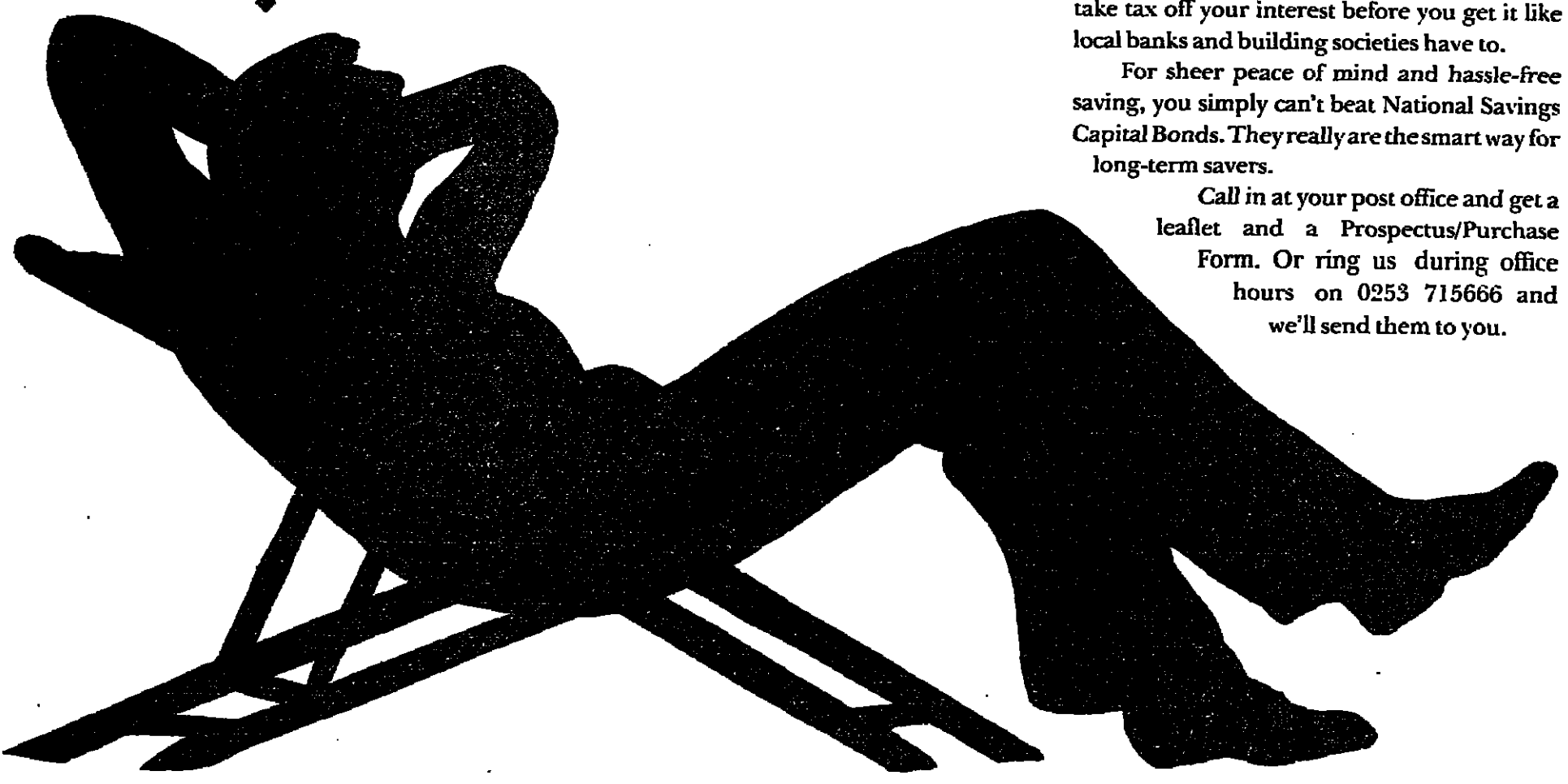
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WORLD ROUNDUP

Corsicans blow up beach nudist camp

Bastia, Corsica (AP) - About 60 armed and masked men evacuated the residents of a holiday complex, including a nudist resort, yesterday and blew up about 60 cabins, police said. Investigators reported no injuries. The letters FNLC, for the Corsican National Liberation Front, were scratched into the hood of a car parked at the entrance of the complex. The masked men entered the Corsicana Forêt and Corsicana Village camps on the eastern side of the Mediterranean island about 8am, police said. The Corsicana Village camp caters to nudists. The men rounded up some 50 people, bound their hands, and held them at a beach restaurant closed for the winter, police said. Among those detained were British, West German, Belgian and Chilean nationals. The bombing marks the fourth attack claimed by the nationalist movement since November.

Runcie visits Ethiopia

Addis Ababa (Reuter) - The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, arrived here yesterday on a week's visit and said he wanted to help speed up aid for millions of people facing starvation in northern Ethiopia. "Here is a real human need - at the same time, it is a country divided by warfare. I want to see what I can do," he said after being greeted by his host, the Orthodox Patriarch Abune Merkorios of Ethiopia. "I will be keen to see any ways in which obstruction to channels of humanitarian aid can be removed." He is also to see relief operations in Eritrea.

Manila coup charges

Manila (AP) - General Renato de Villa, the Philippine armed forces' Chief of Staff, has approved recommendations that two generals and 19 other officers be charged with murder and mutiny in connection with last month's coup attempt, the military said yesterday. The general endorsed a recommendation by a military investigating committee to prosecute Brigadier-General Jose Commendador of the Air Force, Brigadier-General Marcelo Blando of the Army, and 19 officers arrested after the failed December coup which left 113 people dead and more than 500 wounded.

Police death inquiry

Johannesburg (AFP) - A young black police constable died in hospital here after being assaulted by three white superior officers on December 29, The Star newspaper reported yesterday. But police claim Constable Elias Sanguwane, aged 23, pointed his firearm at an officer and was overpowered. He apparently sustained a head injury in the incident, Captain Rex Maree said in a statement. An investigation had been completed and would be forwarded to the Attorney General for a decision on prosecution, when results of the post mortem examination were received, he said.

Panama attack plan

Washington - General Maxwell Thurman, commander of the US forces in Panama, was told to prepare for an invasion to oust General Manuel Noriega as long ago as last July, it was revealed yesterday (Martin Fletcher writes). General Thurman replaced General Frederick Woerner, who was opposed to the Administration's increasingly aggressive military stance towards General Noriega's regime, on July 22. The Post said an acrimonious two-year dispute within the Administration about whether to use military force resolved itself when all other options were exhausted.

Afghan peace move

Washington - President Bush dispatched a team of senior officials to Asia at the weekend to reassess US policy in Afghanistan and explore new ways of achieving a negotiated peace in the country's civil war (Martin Fletcher writes). Nearly a year after the Soviet withdrawal, the Mujahideen have failed to topple the Najibullah Government.

CAPITAL BONDS

NATIONAL SAVINGS

India rejects £281m final compensation for Bhopal disaster

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

The Indian Government has blocked a final settlement of claims arising from the Bhopal gas disaster of five years ago, which left many thousands of victims without compensation.

Declaring that "life in India is not so cheap", the Government has rejected a proposed \$470 million (£281 million) settlement as inadequate, drawing lavish praise from representatives of hundreds of thousands of people who inhaled toxic gases.

The horror is now moving into the next generation, with some new-born babies suffering respiratory and inherited illnesses.

The death toll from the disaster in December, 1984, was about 2,000; the Government has certified that at least 1,500 more have died as a direct consequence of exposure to the gas. More than 600,000 personal injury claims have been filed.

The six-week-old National Front Government's statement amounts to outright rejection of a deal worked out by the Government of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, which would have ended prospects of fur-

ther compensation. His administration was clearly determined to impose the deal on the victims.

Mr Dinesh Goswami, the Law and Justice Minister, announced that the new Government had decided to endorse the main points of petitions who were challenging the proposed settlement before the review bench of the Indian Supreme Court.

One of their main contentions is that the previous Government had no right to reach a final deal with Union Carbide — owner of the pesticide plant where the disaster happened — against the victims' wishes. The petitioners argued that a final settlement would prevent claims by people only now suffering from exposure to the gas.

The Supreme Court ruling will determine whether the claims come to final settlement or a trial. Mr Gandhi's Government said a trial would have taken too long; victims' representatives said that was preferable to an inadequate settlement.

Much of the interim compensation already granted has been caught up in the

slow-moving bureaucracy. Some has undoubtedly been siphoned off by corrupt middlemen. Identifying people who should receive compensation has further retarded the process.

Most medical examinations for the preparation of files on the 600,000 claimants were conducted only last year. Doctors have been ordered to keep their findings secret, hampering independent assessment of the disaster's effects, particularly in the long term.

Even now, no adequate machinery has been set up for getting money to the victims. Despite much-heralded grants of interim relief by Mr Gandhi's Government, relatively few people have received anything. Medical care, too, has proved grossly inadequate.

Indian commentators have called the proposed final settlement especially obnoxious in view of a widespread feeling that many multinationals cut corners in setting up plants in the Third World.

At the weekend the Government announced that it would grant once-only relief to people from the worst-hit areas of Bhopal.

Basement disco fire kills 43 in Zaragoza



The charred interior of the "Flying Disco" in the Spanish town of Zaragoza in which 43 people died early yesterday, and parents of one of the victims comforting each other outside the basement discotheque.

An electrical short circuit is being blamed for the fire (Harry Debelius and Juan Carlos Genucio write). At least 130 people were at the disco when the blaze broke out at about

2.45am. Firemen extinguished the blaze in 15 minutes, witnesses said. The disco was not far from a US military base but all the victims were identified as Spaniards.

One survivor, a waiter who believed he was the last person to escape, said: "Most of the people went to the emergency exit. I got out through the front door. I know they did not get out because that was where the fire was."



Most of the victims choked to death as thick, black smoke fanned by the air-conditioning system filled the basement. Police discovered the bodies of several people still in their seats.

Those trying to escape through the emergency exit were apparently pushed into the blaze by panicking people behind them trying to find a way out. Another survivor said that the lights in the discotheque went out

as she was running up the stairs to escape. "We reached the door through the flames," she said. Officials said the fumes may have contained hydrocyanic acid, a highly poisonous substance.

The fire at the "Flying Disco" was the worst disaster in a public place in Spain since fire destroyed an underground night club in Madrid seven years ago, killing 78 people.

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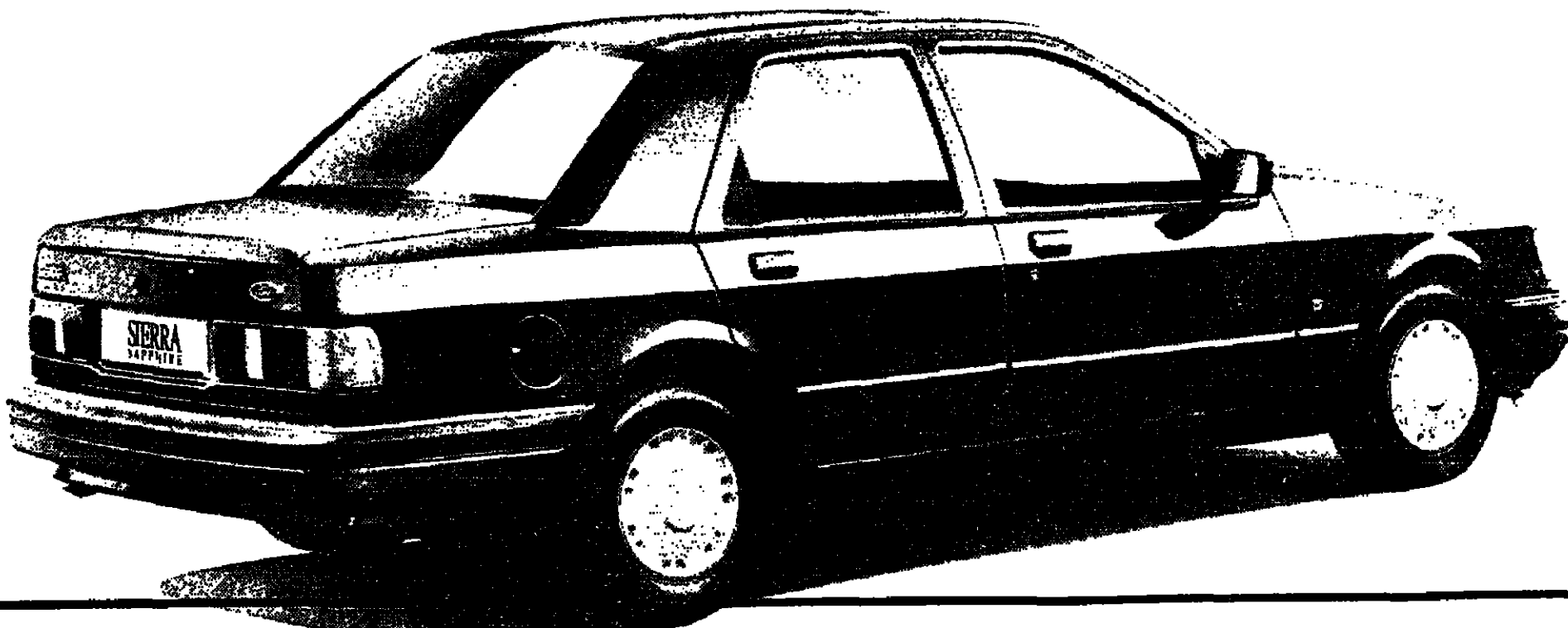
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Charge for Credit	£1749.24	£1938.52	£2031.44	£2241.12
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هنا من الأصل

Salvador killing of Jesuits

President names army suspects

From Tom Gibb, San Salvador

President Cristiani of El Salvador has named an army colonel, three other officers and five soldiers as the prime suspects in the murder last November of six Jesuit priests, their cook and her daughter, aged 15.

The announcement, given El Salvador's poor record in prosecuting army abuses of human rights, was a surprise, but not its contents, since suspicion has focused on the military from the start.

In a television broadcast, Señor Cristiani named Colonel Guillermo Alfredo Benavides Moreno, head of the military academy and commander of the zone where the murders took place. Colonel Benavides is a former head of military intelligence and graduated from the military academy in the same year as Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, the Army Chief of Staff.

The Jesuits were murdered on the night of November 16 at their house on the campus of the Roman Catholic university in San Salvador. Technical evidence gathered by a special investigations unit with help from the FBI and Scotland Yard suggests that the killers tried to fake a gun battle to cover their tracks.

The other officers named are two lieutenants and a sub-lieutenant from the elite American-trained Atlacatl rapid deployment battalion. Troops from the battalion had searched the priests' residence two days before the killings.

One of the five soldiers named deserted at the end of December. All those implicated have been put at the disposition of the special investigations unit and are effectively under arrest.

The murders of the Jesuits have for the first time in years called into question the huge US aid budget to sustain the Government's war effort against left-wing guerrillas in El Salvador. Leaders of the US Congress say continuation of the aid will depend on successful prosecutions.

Señor Cristiani's announcement came as he prepares to leave for America. He is expected to meet President Bush, representatives of Congress, and Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General.

The prospects for prosecution are not good. In El Salvador, despite thousands of military killings, no officer has been tried and convicted for human rights abuses. ● GUATEMALA CITY: On Saturday Guatemala closed its borders in an effort to capture the killers of a left-wing political leader from El Salvador and a Guatemalan human rights lawyer, the Interior Ministry said (Reuters reports).

The body of Señor Héctor Ququeli Colindres, deputy secretary of El Salvador's National Revolutionary Movement, was found near the Salvador border on Friday, police said.

Also found was the body of Señora Gilda Flores, a member of Guatemala's opposition Social Democrat party and a human rights lawyer. Both of them had been shot in the head.

Iraq warns Turks on Euphrates dam

By Our Foreign Staff

Iraq yesterday warned Turkey that the commissioning of a hydroelectric dam across the Euphrates river had created a serious threat to their relations and followed up the warning by dispatching a high-level delegation to Ankara.

To drumbeats and the billowing of multicoloured smoke, President Ozal pushed a button on Saturday to cut the flow of the Euphrates and fill the new Ataturk Dam outside Bostova, 340 miles south-east of Ankara. The 1,750-mile Euphrates flows south from Turkey through Syria and Iraq to the Gulf.

After the button was pressed, a crane lowered a concrete block, soaked with the blood of a ritually slaughtered sheep, into the sole remaining outlet. Within 30 minutes, the level on the other side of the 1.2-mile crescent-shaped dam wall had dropped by at least 3 ft.

Mr Ozal, speaking to an estimated 10,000 people on a barren hillside under the eye of army commandos, tried to reassure both Iraq and Syria that the project was not intended to threaten them. "We will never use water from rivers as a means of threat," he said.

But Syria and Iraq rely heavily on the Euphrates for hydroelectric power and irrigation, and the Iraqi Baath Party daily *al-Thawra* said yesterday that diverting its waters could cause a long-term agricultural disaster. In a



front-page leading article, it said relations could suffer if Turkey does not relent. The drastic reduction in the Euphrates' flow would affect 3.2 million acres of prime farmland in the river basin and force Iraq to shut down four power plants in the western region which produce about 40 per cent of the country's electricity, the paper said.

Syria, in severe economic trouble and almost totally dependent on the river for irrigation and hydroelectric

ity, has not commented officially on Turkey's operation to cut off the Euphrates, but has condemned it in the past.

The Iraqi delegation to Ankara was led by Isam Abd al-Rahim al-Shalabi, the Oil Minister, who carried a message from President Saddam to President Ozal.

He would not reveal its contents but the Iraqi news agency quoted it as saying: "We are sure the Turks do not seek to harm us, but if this measure continues it will, for sure, harm many Iraqis..."

UK plan for Hong Kong democracy 'on target'

From Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor, Hong Kong

The British Government still expects to announce its proposals for greater democracy in Hong Kong within weeks, rather than months, despite a lack of progress in talks with China.

A high government source said a visit to Peking last week by Sir David Wilson, Governor of Hong Kong, had produced a better understanding of the differences. "I don't feel the door has been slammed," he said, but added that it would be wrong to suggest that hopes of agreement were higher. He described Sir David's meetings with Peking officials as "workmanlike".

Further communications between the two governments will be needed, but it is not yet clear whether there might be more meetings before Britain makes an announcement.

His hesitation has caused frustration in Hong Kong and Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, will be questioned on his intentions tomorrow night when he meets members of the Legislative and Executive Councils.

The source reaffirmed that the Government's proposals will be an improvement on the February, 1988, White Paper which called for 10 of the 56 seats on the Legislative Council to be directly elected in the 1991 elections.

But he declined to say whether the British proposals would also cover the 1995 elections, the last to be held under British rule.

Sir David's visit did not succeed in narrowing the gap with Peking over Britain's

plans to give passports to 50,000 Hong Kong heads of households.

Peking has denounced the scheme as a "gross violation" of the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration and has also threatened unspecified "consequences".

The source argued that the scheme was in accordance with the spirit of the declaration but acknowledged that Peking remained "deeply suspicious". He did not minimize the seriousness of Peking's threat, but said the Government would go ahead with its efforts to get Parliament to approve the scheme.

The Government argues that the scheme will give key officials and business people the confidence to remain in Hong Kong, knowing that they could leave if necessary. Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, has said that a collapse in Hong Kong could produce a huge influx of immigration into Britain.

The source endorsed Mr Waddington's view, but said that in such circumstances Britain would have difficulty in introducing a screening process to separate genuine refugees from economic migrants.

Anyone fleeing to Britain in that event could claim to have a well-founded fear of persecution if sent back.

On another issue, Britain has refused to be drawn into a dispute in Hong Kong over the wording of a human rights charter, which Sir Geoffrey Howe, the former Foreign Secretary, promised the colony last July.

Letters, page 15

Small-scale protest fails to damp Hurd's welcome

From Andrew McEwen, Hong Kong



Mr Douglas Hurd and his wife, Judy, on a tour of the Hong Kong-China border yesterday.

The first two days of Mr Douglas Hurd's visit to Hong Kong have produced one small demonstration to demand greater democracy and a much bigger show of support, even affection, for the Foreign Secretary and Sir David Wilson, the Governor.

Only 100 demonstrators attended a rally calling for constitutional changes, while an estimated 2,000 people turned out to watch the two men and their wives take part in a sponsored charity walk. They walked a quarter of a mile from Hong Kong's main sports stadium along a street crowded with smiling people, many of whom thrust out their hands in a gesture of greeting. The only political questions came from journalists.

It was seen as an encouraging start to the visit after the much tougher reception Sir Geoffrey Howe was given when he visited the colony last July.

Sir Geoffrey was booed at a press conference on his arrival, mainly by American journalists angered by his refusal to answer questions. A large group of Hong Kong Chinese holding placards attempted to lobby him at the airport, while others staged a sit-down demonstration outside Government House, Sir David's residence.

Mr Hurd had none of these difficulties. Apparently learning from Sir Geoffrey's mistakes, he made time for local and foreign journalists. Apart

from the media, Hong Kong people showed little interest in his arrival until yesterday morning, when he arrived at a charity event in a tracksuit and trousers.

Led by a prancing dancer in a Chinese dragon costume and a brass band playing British folk songs, the Hurd and the Wilsons joined the procession, shaking dozens of hands and waving and smiling before being whisked away in an official black Daimler for breakfast.

"It is not a reception for me, it is just a happy day for Hong Kong," Mr Hurd said. An estimated 20,000 walkers continued for a further six miles and were expected to collect £1 million for 107 local charities.

A demonstration by the Joint Committee for the Promotion of Democracy, made up of local community groups, was outnumbered by police and journalists.

Waving symbols showing a clenched fist with the Chinese word for "democracy", the protesters chanted: "We want democracy, we want human rights".

The group was dwarfed by a gathering in the same central square, Chater Garden, of hundreds of Filipino maids working for rich Hong Kong families, who meet every Sunday to talk and share picnics. They showed little interest in the demonstration.

Mr Yeung Sum, chairman of the committee, said: "We are not asking for sympathy

from the British Government; what we are seeking is commitment and responsibility — otherwise it will be a disgrace to the British people and Government."

Mr Hurd did not see the procession when it arrived at Government House to present a petition because he had already left for lunch with officials at Fanling Lodge, the Governor's country residence.

The small turn-out saddened Mr Jack Edwards, aged 71, one of the few Europeans taking part, who has lived in Hong Kong since 1963.

"There is a lot of apathy; people feel caught between two big governments, Britain and China, and feel there's not much they can do to influence events," he said.

Mr Hurd had said on arrival that he would announce proposals for greater democracy "within weeks", but this has not satisfied the protesters, who want Britain to take a lead.

Other protesters added that the lack of support reflected scepticism within the colony over whether Britain had the power or will to alter China's intentions where democratic reform was concerned.

However, the continuing high rate of investment in the colony suggests that many people still believe they will be able to make money after sovereignty reverts to Peking. Work was in full progress yesterday on the foundations of Hong Kong's latest skyscraper bank in the city centre.

Cambodia role for UN gains favour

By Michael Knipe in London and James Bone in New York

All five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council are expected to favour a plan for the UN to provide an interim administration for Cambodia when they begin meeting in Paris today.

Meanwhile, according to Mr Tran Quang Co, a Deputy Foreign Minister of Vietnam, the Vietnamese-backed Government led by Mr Hun Sen in Phnom Penh is considering his suggestion for a peace plan. The plan would give the three-party rebel alliance administration over the territory it has occupied since the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops, begun in September.

The two-day closed-door meeting of the permanent members of the Security Council in Paris is the first of its kind since an unsuccessful 19-nation peace conference on Cambodia in Paris in August. It has gained urgency because of the advances made by the Khmer Rouge guerrilla forces led by Pol Pot, which are giving rise to international concern.

At the weekend, the Khmer Rouge urged its fighters to capture Battambang, Cambodia's second city, amid fears that they might attempt to establish an alternative government there. The other guerrilla factions are led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the nationalist figure Mr Son Sann.

Mr Igor Rogachov, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, said

that, after three days of talks with Chinese officials in Peking, all five permanent members of the Security Council supported a UN role in Cambodia. His statement is significant because the Soviet Union arms the Vietnamese-installed Government in Phnom Penh while China arms the opposition guerrillas.

Mr Rogachov said Peking had agreed that the UN role should be "a very major one". Both Hanoi and the Government in Phnom Penh now accept the idea of UN participation in Cambodia, Vietnamese officials say.

Britain, like France and the United States, regards the proposal of a UN interim administration as a possible way forward.

The cost and complexities have yet to be assessed. The success of the world body's role in Namibia is regarded as a good precedent, but an exercise in Cambodia would have to be on a greater scale, needing more than 80,000 people to run Cambodia, a country of seven million people.

The UN role was proposed by Australia, which suggested that the United Nations take charge of Cambodia in the transitional period before elections.

Diplomats believe a likely outcome is the reconvening of the Paris conference, either in Paris or Jakarta.

Leading article, page 15

Royal lodge sit-in

Auckland — One of the Queen's holiday lodges in New Zealand has been taken over by a band of Maori land activists (A Correspondent writes). In protest against the Crown and in support of claims by local Maoris, six men and one woman yesterday occupied the government-owned lodge near Whangarei in North Island. The lodge is expected to be used again by the Queen next month.

Hotel plan

Los Angeles (Reuters) — Mr Donald Trump, a New York property magnate, plans to redevelop the site of the once-renowned Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles where Robert Kennedy was shot.

Star attacked

New York (AP) — Viveca Lindfors, the Swedish-born actress whose stage and screen career covers half a century, was slashed across her neck by a Greenwich Village gang.

Tourist deaths

Lima (Reuters) — About 15 suspected Maoist guerrillas shot and killed two French tourists in the Peruvian Andes after ordering them off a bus at gunpoint, police said.

China quake

Peking (Reuters) — A strong earthquake hit a remote part of China's north-western Qinghai province, but there were no reports of deaths.

Twins success

Sydney — In an eight-hour operation doctors at Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital have successfully separated Siamese twins who were joined from the chest to the abdomen.

Leader shot

Delhi (AFP) — Sikh militants shot dead a Communist leader in Punjab, a day after nine people were killed in the Sikh separatist campaign in the north Indian state.

Torture claim

Cairo (Reuters) — A civil rights group has claimed that Egyptian security forces last year routinely used whips, electric batons and sexual assault against political detainees.

Visit cut

Taipei (AP) — President Avril of Haiti has cut short a state visit to Taiwan, reportedly because of growing political unrest at home, officials said.

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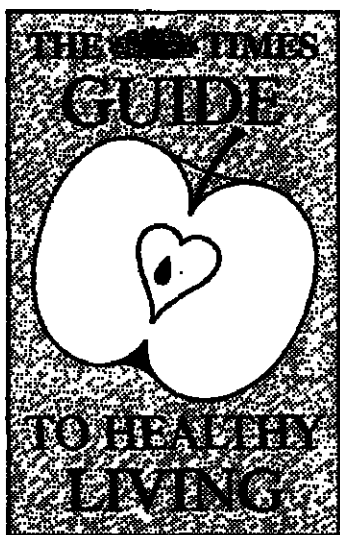
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Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte is the business name used by Coopers & Lybrand and Deloitte Haskins & Sells in the UK. The two firms are to merge on 29 April 1990. Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte are authorised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales to carry on Investment Business. Plumtree Court, London EC4A 4HT - 128 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 1JX.

SPECTRUM

Are you fit for the Nineties?



How do you live a healthy life? Is it exercise, environment or attitude that determines our wellbeing? What role do work and relationships play? Over the next four days we will examine the constituents of healthier living. Today Dr Thomas Stuttford begins our series with a questionnaire to assess how your life measures up now

Healthiness is different from physical fitness. Fitness can be measured, for instance in an army recruit who, during his initial training, will have to reach certain standards by running, jumping and swimming measured distances in an allotted time without experiencing undue physical distress. Healthiness is a much broader concept, although most people when asked will see it as a freedom from illness, or from any constraints which might be imposed on their lifestyle by infirmity, great or small. The definition of good health as being the ability to live, love and work to one's full potential for as long as possible has never been bettered. Health is as dependent on the mental approach to problems at work and home as it is to prowess on the squash court, or a wise choice of food from the menu in the canteen, boardroom or mess.

An assessment of a person's full potential, and the extent to which he or she is achieving it, is the essential first step in any plan to improve health. Only when this potential has been defined can realistic goals be set and improvement, if not perfection, be achieved. Just as it is absurd to expect the average citizen to achieve Olympic standards of physical fitness, so is it unreasonable to ask people who are born with a difficult or anxious personality to achieve complete emotional equanimity.

Objectives should be sufficiently demanding to provide stimulating challenge, but not so ambitious as to be unobtainable. The man of 5ft 6in who weighs 10 stone will never become a record-breaking shot-putter, however much he trains. Nor will the person with a strong genetic predisposition to anxiety, or one who was deprived of loving acceptance in childhood, ever be totally relaxed. But both can improve their performance, and with it their health, by gaining insight into their problems and the way in which they deal with them.

The experience of doctors working in health screening, a branch of medicine which reviews the

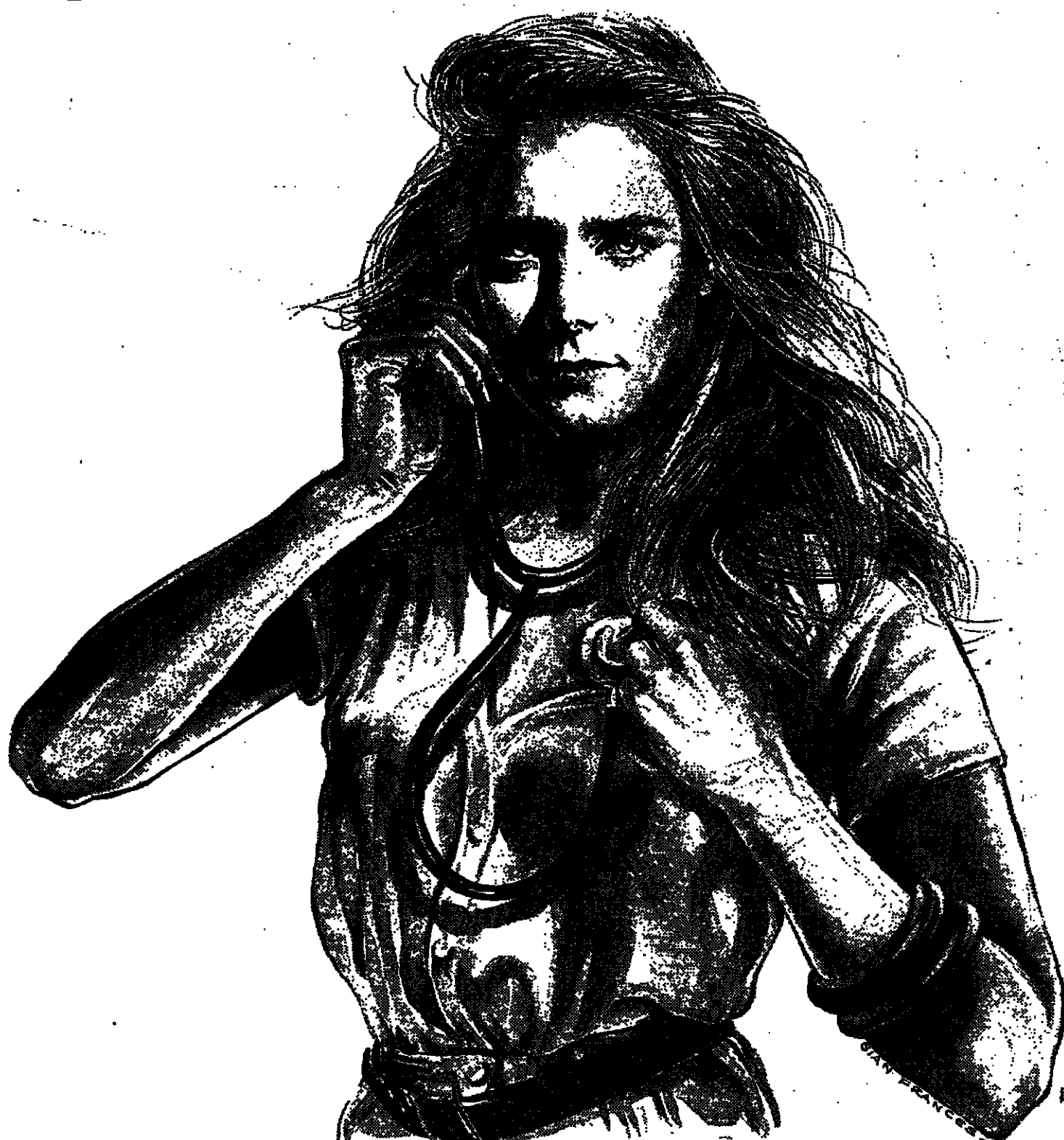
health, wealth and happiness of tens of thousands of people annually, is that those who can be described as successful, not only in their professional but also their domestic life, are those who have the highest tolerance to stress. These are the people who have learnt to equate their aspirations with their abilities, who seek a life which is stimulating but one in which the objectives are obtainable, even if the attempt to reach them will stretch the person's qualities to their limits. The response of any individual to stress varies enormously. What constitutes an exciting challenge to one person may be soul-crushing to the next.

Personality is partly inherited, partly acquired in early life; but despite the limitations which it imposes, with self-awareness your lifestyle, and with it your health, can be altered.

The shy, anxious man will never become the saloon-bar hearty, but he may find happiness and acceptance in the local literary society. The ruthless businessman, nurtured in a home environment where love was at a premium, will probably seek consolation in competitiveness in later life; while he is unlikely to turn into a latter-day St Francis, he may learn to feel concern for groups of people, even if he is unable to relate to any of them as individuals.

A study of the minutiae of any person's daily round will usually demonstrate where improvements can be made, contentment increased and life-span extended, but in planning these changes it is always as well to bear in mind the old medical maxim that the aim must be to make certain life is added to years, as well as years to life.

A start can be made by analysing an individual's diet, both liquid and solid; the amount and type of exercise taken; the approach to work and home life; and the ability to withstand the stress which both these areas will, inevitably, engender. As stress, and the ability to withstand it, is the key to success, questions on stress influence all other aspects of life.



Are you stress prone?

In each of the six groups below, tick the description which best fits you:

1a Are you competitive and aggressive at work, in your relations with the opposite sex and when playing games?
b If you lose a few points in a game, or if not immediately welcomed by a member of the opposite sex, do you give up?
c Do you avoid any confrontation?

2a Are you ambitious and anxious to achieve a lot?
b Do you wait for things to happen to you?
c Do you find excuses to put things off?

3a Do you like to get things done quickly and often become impatient?
b Do you rely on others to spur you into action?
c Do you worry about the events of the day after you've gone home?

4a Do you talk too fast and too loudly? Are you over-emphatic and interrupt others' conversation?
b Can you take "no" for an answer with perfect equanimity?
c Do you find it hard to express your feelings and anxieties?

Do you get bored easily?

b Do you like having nothing to do?
c Do you always accommodate other people's wishes, not your own?

6a Do you walk, eat and drink quickly?
b If you forget to do something are you relaxed about it?
c Do you bottle things up?

Do you display symptoms of stress?

Tick all those to which you would answer yes:

1 Do you often want to cry?
2 Do you bite your nails, fidget with your feet or twiddle your hair?
3 Are you indecisive?
4 Do you feel that there's nobody you can talk to?
5 Are you often irritable and uncooperative?
6 Do you eat when you aren't hungry?
7 Do you feel you can't cope?
8 Do you sometimes feel so tense that you think you'll explode, or do you have explosive rages?
9 Do you drink or smoke to calm your nerves?
10 Are you an insomniac?
11 Are you gloomy and suspicious of the motives of others?

Do you drive too fast, are your journeys punctuated by "near misses"?

13 Have you lost your sense of enthusiasm and your pleasure at looking forward?
14 Have you lost your interest in your sex life?

Is your domestic life a health hazard?

Tick all those to which you would answer yes:

1 Do you find it difficult to talk to your partner about personal problems?
2 Do you snap at your family and then regret it?
3 Do you think that your marriage or relationship is emotionally one-sided and that you are contributing more to it than your partner?
4 Have you ceased looking forward to going home?
5 Do you argue too often and too fiercely about money?
6 Are you jealous of your partner?
7 Do you feel you are now trapped by your relationship and would like to break away?
8 Do you feel that your marriage is holding you back in your professional and social life?
9 Has your sex life ceased to satisfy either you or your partner?

Is your diet damaging?

Tick your answers to the questions below:

1 How many meals do you eat each day:
a three or more
b two
c one?

2 Do these meals include breakfast:
a always
b once a week
c rarely?

3 If you have breakfast does it consist of:
a cereals and a drink
b fried foods
c just a drink?

4 How many times a day do you have snacks between meals:
a never
b once or twice
c more than three times?

5 Do you have fresh fruit, vegetables or salads:
a three times a day
b once or twice a day
c less than three or four times a week?

6 How often do you eat fried foods:
a once a week
b three or four times a week
c most days?

7 How often do you have creamy or chocolate puddings:
a once a week
b one to four times a week
c most days?

8 Do you spread on your bread:
a polyunsaturated margarine
b a mixture of butter and soft and hard margarines
c butter only?

9 How many times a week do you eat fish:
a more than once
b once or twice
c once or less?

10 How often do you eat wholemeal cereals or bread:
a at least once a day
b three to six times a week
c less than three times a week?

11 Before cooking or eating meat do you:
a trim off the visible fat
b trim off some of the fat
c remove none of the fat?

12 How many cups of coffee or tea do you drink a day:
a one or two
b three to five
c six or more?

13 How many alcoholic drinks, measured in units, do you consume each day:
a less than two units
b two to four units
c more than four units?

Are you a candidate for a coronary?

In the 1960s two Americans, Mayer Friedman and Ray Rosenman, devised a way of classifying personality. Temperament is related to health: the aggressive, highly competitive man or woman, labelled Type A by the Americans, is twice as likely to have coronary heart disease as the

more passive Type B. Interestingly, if the Type A man or woman survives the initial attack, he or she is thereafter more likely to survive longer than a person of the same age with a Type B personality. Tick all those to which you would answer yes:

1 Do you have an unremitting urge to compete?
2 Are you easily aroused to anger, irritation and impatience?
3 Are you aggressive with people who get in your way?
4 Do you find it difficult to bear waiting or queues?
5 Do you speak in a loud voice? Do you not only interrupt but finish other people's sentences and even stories for them?
6 Do you smoke?

7 Do you ever try to sneak in a few extra drinks, secretly, when drinking with companions?
8 Have you ever had a "black-out" - short-term memory loss - after drinking?
9 Do others discuss your drinking?

10 Have memory black-outs become more common?
11 Have you tried to control your drinking?
12 Do you usually drink for an identifiable reason?

13 Do you often regret things you say when you've been drinking?
14 Do you want to continue drinking after your companions have stopped?

15 Have good intentions about cutting down failed?
16 Have you ever moved house or changed job as part of your campaign to give up drinking?

17 Do you feel persecuted?
18 Have you financial or work problems because of drink?
19 Do you prefer to drink with strangers?

20 Has drinking affected your diet?
21 Do you have a drink in the morning to set yourself up?
22 Do you feel depressed and hopeless?

23 Are you sometimes drunk for days at a time?
24 Has your tolerance of drink fallen?
25 Have you had hallucinations after drinking?
26 Have you ever frightened yourself by your drinking?

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Are you mentally fit?

Answer each question with either "never", "rarely", "sometimes", or "often":
1 Do your emotions run away with you?
2 Do you try to avoid awkward situations or people?
3 Do you seek approval from everyone you meet?
4 Have you the ability to see yourself as others see you?
5 Do you dread being alone?
6 Do you feel you are no longer in control of your own life?
7 Do you think it is a sign of weakness to feel grief?
8 Do you believe that a perfect relationship is impossible?
9 Do you feel isolated?
10 Do you dislike yourself?
11 Do you feel depressed?
12 Do you feel you have nothing more to contribute?
13 Do you feel that other people are talking about you in an uncomplimentary way?
14 Do you avoid contact with other people?
15 Do you harbour regrets and resentments?

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Are you physically fit?
Exercise is important but the amount needed to remain fit has been exaggerated in recent years. Tests have shown that half an hour of brisk walking a day is enough to keep you healthy. Even so, physical exercise which includes keep-fit classes and games is advantageous if it can be done frequently. Tick your answers to the questions:

1 How active are you? Do you take exercise:
a four times a week
b two or three times a week
c once a week
d less than once a week?

2 How far do you walk each day:
a more than three miles (about an hour)
b up to three miles
c less than one mile (20 minutes)
d less than half a mile?

3 When you go to work or shopping do you:
a walk or go by bicycle usually
b go part of the way on foot or by bicycle
c occasionally walk or use the bicycle
d always use public transport or your car?

4 When there's a choice do you:
a always use the stairs
b use the stairs unless you have something to carry
c occasionally take the stairs
d always use the lift?

5 At weekends do you spend:
a several hours working around the house and garden
b usually only sit down for meals and in the evening but have no planned physical activities
c take a few short walks
d spend most of the weekend reading or watching television?

These questionnaires are derived from the BUPA Manual of Fitness and Well-Being (Macdonald) and form the basis of the topics discussed in medical consultations during health screening. The opinions and conclusions expressed here are not necessarily BUPA's.

What is your job doing to your health? Find out where you stand in the stress league - and whether you have the makings of a stress-resilient success

TOMORROW

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MONDAY PAGE

Party's new life and soul

Britain's ailing Communist movement has a fresh, young leader in Nina Temple. Victoria Glendinning finds her ready to meet the challenge of these revolutionary times

Everyone wants to meet Nina Temple, the new general secretary of the British Communist Party. She slotted me in between an interview with Channel 4 television and rushing off to collect her two children from their nursery. The CP in this country is an elderly and apparently infirm body, with a membership in precipitous decline since the war and currently down to about 7,500. It might be expected, now, to expire quietly.

But it has just elected this lively 33-year-old as its new leader. She is not only the youngest general secretary to date, but the first woman.

If you did not know, you would guess that she was a teacher or a social worker. She is articulate, outgoing, optimistic and, as the party's former publicity officer, she knows how to use the media. Suddenly, everyone wants to find out what is going on.

She is ditching, for a start, the old Leninist structure of the British CP in favour, a recent press release says, of "a CP transformed into a force which is feminist and green as well as democratically socialist".

"I'm absolutely delighted about events in Europe," Temple says. "I never found in those countries a model of what I wanted Britain to be. I spoke against the invasion of Czechoslovakia — not at the time, I was only 11 — but on the tenth anniversary." She was in the Soviet Union in 1982 for the congress of the Komsomol, the youth association, and was horrified not only by Brezhnev's address, but by the way the other speeches mirrored his, making no fresh contributions. The form was wrong: "It was never Communism in action, it was all a result of the old Bolshevik model of centralism, discipline and class war. This had been increasingly clear since the Prague spring. We were possibly less surprised by the collapse than outsiders were."

What did surprise her was that the initial momentum came from the Soviet CP itself, with Gorbachev and glasnost.

The British CP is, inevitably, in crisis. "We've been in crisis before. We lost a section of the party in 1977, and another section in the mid-1980s." Old-style Communism survives in splinter groups. "Our natural constituency has not changed. Our policies have changed, and our ideas of what socialism could and should be. Our basic reasons for existence are the same — to oppose capitalism and social inequalities, which are even greater than they were. We want to develop a movement that is democratic, diverse,



Face of Communism: Nina Temple wants a party that is "feminist, green and democratically socialist"

'I'm delighted about events in Europe. I never found in those countries a model for Britain'

empowering, in a living form." For their congress in November 1989, the party took a whole issue of *Marxism Today* to publish a "Manifesto for New Times", and "new times" is the catchphrase for the challenge Temple has to meet. If another CP monthly, *News and Views*, billed as "The Heartbeat of

the Communist Party", is anything to go by, the battle against hard-line Leninism is already well won. A report headed "New Times in Norwich" describes the highlight of the Norwich branch's recent discussion day — a workshop about the co-operation of workers and consumers in the

production of environmentally friendly aerosol sprays and cleaning products, which are good for the planet and "politically valid". But *Marxism Today*, edited upstairs in the same building as the CP office, has a sharper edge. It is required reading for anyone whose business it is to keep

abreast of the post-Thatcher debate. The analysis of 10 years of Thatcherism in the "Manifesto for New Times" is as astute, as exact, and as nearly objective (from the opposite perspective) as anything that could have come out of a Conservative think tank. *Marxism Today* is the CP's greatest asset, apart from Temple.

"We have become more open, and are having a no-holds-barred discussion about our future. Some say business as usual. Some say we should abandon the name 'Communist', which works against us, and become a movement rather than a political party" — affiliating with other groups such as greens, feminists, environmentalists, disarmers, minority groups, and the Labour Party (if it was interested), to form an alliance of the left. The CP on its own is "lacking in influence", and the Labour Party up to now has fought off its approaches. The word "Communist" sets too many alarm bells ringing.

"We have to consider whether we want to reclaim the term 'Communism'. This may be a nostalgic feeling, but William Morris called himself a Communist before Lenin was born. If the name is too much of a barrier it can't be reclaimed. I have an idealistic idea of Communism as a splendid thing. Christians didn't give up because of the Inquisition. You don't run away from your own history."

Her own history is nothing to run away from. She grew up on a council estate in St John's Wood, London, and went to Camden School for Girls and on to Imperial College. Her father is director of Progressive Tours, which advertises holidays in the Soviet Union on the back cover of *Marxism Today*. At 13 she joined the Young Communist League and has never looked back; though when she was a member of the British Youth Council in her early twenties, it was as the nominee of the Young Liberals and of the Church of England Youth Committee. The father of her children (she is not married) is a maths teacher from Wales. Her brother is Julian Temple, maker of David Bowie promos and director of *Absolute Beginners*; his latest film is *Earth Girls Are Easy*.

Nina Temple, an earth girl who is easy in a very different sense, is committed to involving everyone in events and decisions, and not just every five years when there is an election. "It's a classic Marxist

position. As Karl said, 'it is people that make history'. The Labour Party's idea of opposing the poll tax was putting an ad in *The Guardian*. But can she really see people here coming out on to the streets in their thousands, as in the cities of Eastern Europe? "Those things don't happen quite spontaneously. And there were no normal safety valves in those countries to relieve the pressure. There have been examples here: the women at Greenham did change the world, and were part of what was happening in Europe. Part of my optimism is because of the new type of unionism. The Government can't win the ambulance strike." She sees Scargillism as sectarianism, and from the past.

The CP can transform itself in any way it wants. "We are not part of an international organization, we are answerable to no one, though we do exchange delegations with Communist parties in all parts of the world."

The British CP has always been independent: in 1968 the then secretary general spoke up in Moscow against the military intervention in Czechoslovakia. "We don't want to be just another political party. It's not forms that interest me but policies. I'd like to see us joining up with people who agree with us in other organizations. I'd like to see a new type of non-confrontational politics; all parties have some good and some bad in them." The new manifesto comes out in favour of proportional representation, and of coalitions.

Temple's salary is £7,500 a year. The party is bone-poor, though it owns the freehold of its building near Smithfield, London, acquired 70 years ago.

The place is like a stage set for a 1950s office drama — shabby, with trailing flexes, an antiquated tea urn on the floor, piles of papers, and snags of children on the notice-board. In the downstairs hallway there is an electric fire for visitors and, on a shelf by the door, half a dozen jars of homemade jam and chutney.

It is all very sympathetic and English. Someone should give them a grant. The bluest of Conservative voters would have to be suffering from a severe case of red-under-the-bed paranoia to think that the revolution starts here. But something else might — something interesting.

A herb for all reasons

Lesley Bremness puts her faith in nature, finding all she needs for cooking and curing in her garden



Growing enthusiasm: Lesley Bremness in her Suffolk garden

The pots of aloe vera on Lesley Bremness's kitchen window ledge bear testimony to her faith in the healing properties of herbs. Beneath the plant's spiky exterior, she claims, lurks a veritable medicine chest of remedies. Even as we talk, the plant's leaf sap is busy healing Bremness's sprained arm under her blue denim shirt.

Meanwhile, she is wondering whether to sprinkle the oils of pine and camphor into a saucy pan to ease her cough and fumigate the germs. "So much for the healthy herb lady," she says. She is a great advocate of ginseng — so-called, among other things, for improving the memory — and would take it herself if only she could remember to buy some.

An authority on all things herbal, 46-year-old Bremness's latest television series, *World of Herbs*, begins on Channel 4 on Friday evening, coinciding with the publication of her book of the same name. The five-part series, which she wrote and presents, is a pot-pourri of recipes, remedies, cosmetics and decorative ideas incorporating the seeds, leaves, flowers, roots and essential oils of herbs.

Much of the series is filmed in the cluttered kitchen and herb garden of the 16th-century cottage in Suffolk where she lives with her husband, Roger Lowe, who is head of the local art college, and their four sons aged between eight and 16.

She became hooked on herbs in 1977 after winning a competition to design a herb garden for the Chelsea Flower Show. Before that her agricultural experience had been limited to abortive attempts at building a rock garden as a child at her home in Edmonton, Canada, and her equally unsuccessful efforts at transforming the balcony of her London flat into a forest of sweet peas in plastic cups, without understanding that they needed more nourishment than could be provided by soil dug up from the nearby shrubbery.

When someone gave her a gardening book, she was "amazed to discover the depth of my ignorance". Having moved with her husband to Suffolk on a "wave of self-sufficiency", she began growing vegetables because "I had this puritan streak which says your energy should be put into growing food".

An interior designer by training and experience — she and Lowe met when they were both production designers at the BBC — she was attracted to herbs by the fact that they are both beautiful and useful. "I didn't decide to become interested in herbs; they're like a magnet. It's to do with being in touch with nature, about what the planet is made of and how we're living our lives." She once stood locally for the Ecology Party and was delighted to get 8 per cent of the votes in a staunchly Conservative area.

She sells herbs from her home, and most of her customers are professional garden designers anxious to pick her brains. Not many are

locals. "When I started they thought I was some sort of odd woman down the street selling weeds." Quite a few customers come from overseas — as far away as Japan and Australia — because they have read about her. "Even if it doesn't make money, it keeps me in touch with what people want," she says of her herb nursery. "And I learn a lot from the people who come."

One Japanese girl turned up claiming to be a disciple of herbs and took up temporary residence in a caravan in the garden in return for helping with the weeding. From her, Bremness learnt much about the ways the Japanese use herbs, such as their tradition of serving grated horseradish with raw fish to kill the parasites. "It's important for westerners to know that, otherwise they think it's just a garnish."

She takes me on a conducted tour of her herb garden, which boasts about 225 different herbs at its peak. At the moment there are around 150 and she proudly shows them off, stroking them and rubbing their leaves to release the scent. "That's how you should rub herbs — you should rub them and smell them and see what you like."

There are knots of mixed santolinas, beds of different-coloured sages, creeping thymes, marjoram and oregano and rosemary, an evening primrose and shrubby thyme, and a brick camomile seat which she built herself. She introduces me to her *Eupatorium purpureum*, commonly known as sweet Joe Pye, useful for biliousness and as a laxative and for relieving joint and rheumatism. "It behaves so well you just want to hug it," she says, throwing her arms around the brittle, out-of-season stems.

Cooking for the family, she uses mainly parsley and chervil and lemon verbena and lavender... "It's like saying which is your favourite child." I am just about to ask her whether she creates her own recipes when she declares scathingly: "It's the philosophical attitude that interests me, and then people come and ask me about recipes."

She has invited me to lunch and, with time at a premium, she has booked a table at a local restaurant — featured in one of her programmes with tantalizing fare. As it happens, we spend so long in the herb garden that, despite a mad dash in her ancient Volvo, the restaurant is closed.

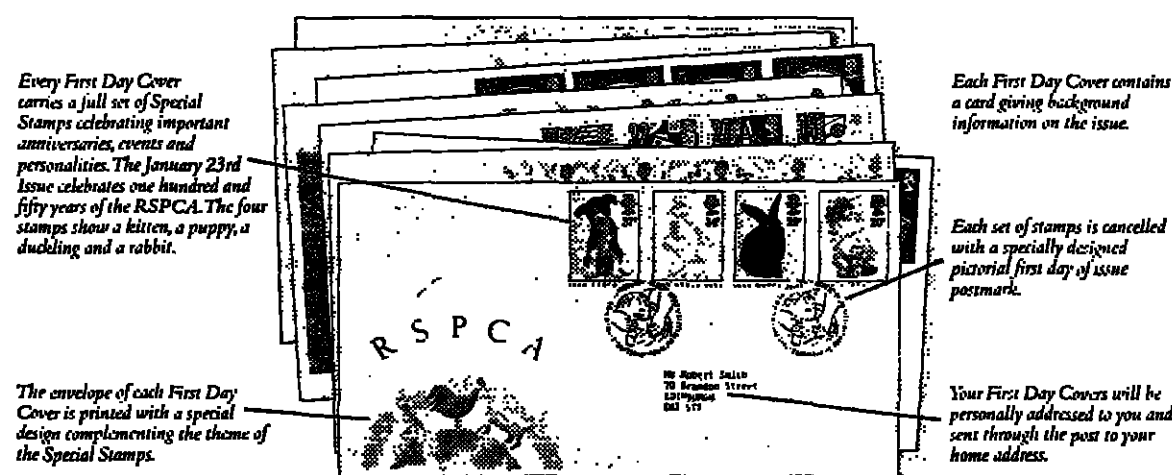
The toasted cheese which she knocks up in her kitchen is untouched by herbs, but none the less enjoyable for that.

Sally Brompton
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World of Herbs by Lesley Bremness is published by Ebury Press and Channel 4 (£5.95)



TOMORROW
As the chain that led the Eighties retailing revolution unveils its new fashion ranges, Liz Smith profiles the happy Next family intended to revive its fortunes in the Nineties



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TIMES DIARY

SHERIDAN MORLEY

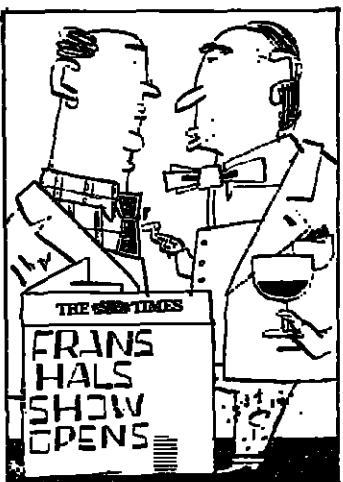
Next Friday, thanks to a million-pound endowment to the university by the producer Cameron Mackintosh — thanks in turn to the phenomenal success of *Cats*, *Les Misérables* and *Phantom of the Opera* — the composer Stephen Sondheim gives his inaugural lecture as Visiting Professor of Drama at Oxford. He will then lead a series of seminars, and selected students may even be lucky enough to watch him at work on the forthcoming London premiere of his two most recent works, the National Theatre's *Sunday in the Park with George* (opening next month) and *Into the Woods*, due for the West End this summer with Julia McKenzie.

For those of us who spent most of our Oxford undergraduate careers campaigning futilely for a department of drama, this is great news, even if it comes thirty years later than we might have hoped. As with the professorship of poetry, the drama post will pass on to other distinguished figures, among whom I would guess Peter Brook and Arthur Miller to be high on every list. After that, they might even have the courage to offer it to a woman: Nancy Meckler of Shared Experience, or Deborah Warner of the RSC/National, or Thelma Holt of the Peter Hall Company, perhaps.

The boom in musicals which sustained box-offices in the West End throughout the 1980s (as it also did on Broadway) has suffered a setback. Over Christmas and the New Year, four major musical productions had their curtains suddenly and unexpectedly lowered: Trevor Nunn's *The Baker's Wife* at the Phoenix was by far the most distinguished, though it may in the end have lost less than two test shows, one of which, *Forry & Bess*, collapsed with the tent itself during a storm on Ealing Common, while the other, *Barnum*, has had to call in the official receiver after folding its tent-poles on Shepherd's Bush Green to an estimated loss of £750,000. Meanwhile the Manchester Royal Exchange is less than delighted at the news this weekend that London investors have pulled out at the last minute of a multi-million-pound co-production deal to stage *The Count of Monte Cristo* as a new musical with Robert Lindsay (from *Me & My Girl*) despite several months of advance preparation which now goes to waste.

It looks as if the considerable problems facing Margaret Benton, newly appointed curator of the Theatre Museum in Covent Garden, may not be unique to Britain. The theatre department of the Museum of the City of New York, long reckoned to be one of the finest in the world, is appealing for \$40 million to carry out some much-needed restoration work, and has admitted that priceless archives donated by Richard Rodgers and George Gershwin have been damaged by basement flooding and bad storage conditions. Over here, though storage conditions are very much better, there is a real need to raise the profile of the Theatre Museum so that, as with the Museum of the Moving Image on the South Bank, it attracts a mass audience instead of a few academic specialists and bored schoolchildren. But for that to happen a lot more MOMI-type showmanship will be required, and soon.

BARRY FANTONI



'Didn't he paint The Laughing Gallery Owner?'

A few months ago Sir John Gielgud remarked to me in tones of some horror, having characteristically forgotten his listener's occupation, that the most awful thing was happening in America: even drama critics were now having theatres named after them. The implication being that the honour would doubtless next be bestowed on armed robbers or subway rapists.

But sure enough, following the Brooks Atkinson lead, the old Ritz Theatre in New York is now to be renamed the Walter Kerr. Since only the veterans are being honoured, there are as yet no plans for a Frank Rich Theatre, where shows would doubtless close overnight in tribute to the man they call the Broadway Butcher. Any reaction to a suggested Clive Barnes Theatre would probably follow the thinking of Alan Bennett, who once remarked that giving Barnes the CBE for services to the British theatre was much like giving Goering a CBE for services to the RAF.

The garage that has been looking after my car these last few years, the garage that always managed to charge me for new tyres at £120 a throw, even when it went in for replacement windscreen wipers, has given up servicing. I telephoned on Thursday to announce that my brake-pads appeared to be in need of attention; could they have a look at them? And they told me of their withdrawal from the business of making cars better and supplied me with names and addresses of firms that still did that sort of work. (The Rothschilds sacked their chef every five years as a matter of principle, arguing that a man who had not made his fortune in that time as a *maitre* of their cuisine was unworthy, by virtue of his lack of enterprise, to remain in their employ. Perhaps the garage decided it had been at it long

enough, had taken most of their clients for most of their money and was now moving on to some even more lucrative enterprise — old people's homes, perhaps.) As for me with my car that would not stop when I wanted it to stop, I rang the most conveniently situated of the recommended garages and told them of my problem. "We are very busy but bring it round and we'll have a look at it," said a man. I brought it round. A mechanic took my place behind the wheel, drove it back and forth and called out: "Watch this, fellers, the brake pedal has direct contact with the under your bonnet," he said. I wheel drum." They watched. I examined

asked how long the repair would take. They suggested I return in an hour for a considered opinion. When I came back after eating six good oysters at Wheeler's, a small man sat behind the steering wheel pressing pedals, three men gazed earnestly into the engine — one wielding his screwdriver — and a back-up man rummaged around the boot. I asked how it looked, other than expensive, which I could see for myself. The head person, he with the screwdriver, moved away from the car and reappeared with a carrier bag. "We found these plastic bits bulged with a multitude of old bread rolls, stale baps, half eaten slices of vintage toast and the remains of some sandwiches. "These," said the man, "were



CLEMENT FREUD

plastic: it bulged with a multitude of old bread rolls, stale baps, half eaten slices of vintage toast and the remains of some sandwiches. "These," said the man, "were

Nicholas Bethell replies to Tebbit's 'disloyalty' charge

Europe: let Tories unite

Norman Tebbit suggested in *The Times* last Tuesday that Conservative MEPs are involved in a plot to lower the curtain on Britain's history as a sovereign state and to reduce the House of Commons to the status of a regional council. We MEPs are behaving not only unpatriotically, it seems, but deviously too, since we fail to own up to our federalist inclinations and we claim to be Conservatives in the face of clear evidence that no such claim can any longer be justified. He ended by inviting us, in the interest of the nation's independence, to leave the party.

It is unusual in parliamentary life to be faced with allegations of this nature, especially from a "right honourable friend". I can think of only one good reason why Mr Tebbit should have been so provoked into error. Radio and television have recently taken to telephoning MEPs and inviting us to attack the Prime Minister's stance on Europe. Most of us refuse. Two or three, though, are eager to criticize. And it is they, of course, who are invited into the studio to express the views which cause Mr Tebbit, and many others, such intense irritation.

Still, as far as I know, no Tory MEP favours any "United States

of Europe" scenario which would end British nationhood. Most of us want to join the Exchange Rate Mechanism as soon as possible, as does the Prime Minister, but there is no headlong rush among us towards a common currency. These matters must be taken step by step.

There is no reason for British MEPs and MEPs to be rivals. They should work together in Britain's interest. Unfortunately, there is a small but malignant group of hard-nosed backbenchers, Labour as well as Conservative, reluctant to work with us on European questions. Those who are not also members of the Westminster parliament have even had trouble getting into the building.

No other national parliament treats its MEPs in this way. It is one reason why Britain loses out in some of the European decision-making. Our representatives are the only ones who do not co-ordinate their efforts. Yet we were selected as Conservative

candidates through the same party machine that selected Mr Tebbit and elected by the same system, albeit on a lower poll. Our duty to our British constituents is no less than his.

The taxpayer would get better value if the two jobs were allowed to complement each other. Every month the European Council of Ministers passes laws which affect us all. About 140 have been approved on the single market alone. The House of Commons is meant to scrutinize them in committee and, if necessary, debate them on the floor, to give guidance to the relevant British minister.

In fact, these draft laws come to committee only at a late stage, when the negotiations in Brussels are nearly over, and a few are debated by the Commons in the small hours of the morning, with only a handful of MPs present, virtually no practical effect. Last month, not before time, a report issued by Sir Peter Emery MP proposed changes — quicker

reaction to Commission proposals and serious debates in prime time, so that the minister can absorb the argument.

MEPs are glad that the Commons will take its European duties more seriously, and we will happily help it in its scrutiny process. Through our own committee work, which involves interrogating commissioners and their staff, we get to know the detail of draft laws early on. We can identify British interests and co-operate with MPs to make sure that any new law takes account of them.

We want to usurp the powers not of MPs, but of the unelected Brussels civil servants. This is the "democratic deficit". Mrs Thatcher is right in not wanting to give control of European economic union to such an unsupervised body. But if MEPs had better relations with the Commons, and if we could establish a single EP seat in Brussels, we could have proper offices there and keep the Com-

mission under better control. We hope that MPs will help us to achieve this, and one day perhaps give us a voice in the hiring and firing of individual commissioners, so that we can help them to fight Britain's corner more effectively. Mr Tebbit's outburst will have damaged this prospect — and British interests into the bargain.

The ambition of MEPs, he suggests, will lead to "progressive loss of (British) authority over the total to be raised by taxation". What are the facts? The 1990 EC budget (£30 billion) is 2.4 per cent of the Community's national public expenditure. This percentage cannot be significantly raised without House of Commons approval.

And even if this were forthcoming, to achieve full economic and monetary union, M Delors has said that only 5 per cent of public expenditure would then be under Community control. Is not 95 per cent enough for Mr Tebbit and his commitment

to the nation-state? He accepts, presumably, that on occasion Britain can be made stronger by pooling a small part of our sovereignty. He agrees, I suppose, with the surrender to Nato of almost all Britain's decisions on defence. And he did not disagree with the Prime Minister when she said in her Bruges speech, "I want to see us work more closely on the things we can do better together than alone. Europe is stronger when we do so..."

Does he agree with the Prime Minister that Britain will soon join the ERM? Is he in favour of the Single European Act, with its paragraphs on economic and monetary union? Presumably he is, since he was a leading member of the government that negotiated it. It was he and his colleagues, not the MEPs, who pushed it through the House of Commons on a guillotine.

That being the case, what is he making such a fuss about? He would surely be well advised now to withdraw his allegations of disloyalty against MEPs and try to co-operate with us, so that we can all do our best for Britain, in Strasbourg as well as at Westminster. That is the way of the true patriot.

Lord Bethell is Conservative MEP for London North-West.

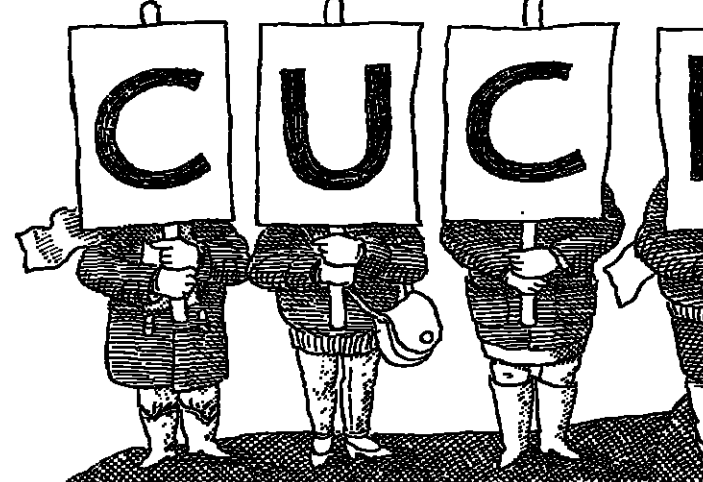
Bernard Levin on the eternal optimism of Trotsky's philandering follower

Nothing to lose but their chastity

The recent death of Gerry Healy has produced some of the most entertaining obituaries I have ever seen; his conduct while he was alive was discussed at length in the most lurid terms, pro and con, but the reputation he left behind him has led to a redoubling of the debate — redoubling, that is, in exhaustiveness and vigour alike.

The problem for the few sane people willing to read this stuff (almost all of those who were closely associated with him were crazy to start with, and the remaining few rapidly followed them into barmydom) is that it is virtually impossible to understand the ramifications of any of the political groupuscules with which Healy was associated, either as member, leader, dictator, opponent, underminer, stormer out from, anathematizer, taker over of, betrayer, welcomer, lecturer to (indistinguishable from harangue), denouncer, shaker off of the dust of, and — er — bonker.

I do not propose to discuss that last role, if only because I am quite unable to believe anything whatever said on the subject, from whatever quarter it comes. Even before his death, he had acquired a gigantic *réclame* as a seducer; one of the accusations made against him when he was finally arraigned on charges of deviationism (heaven knows what he was supposed to have deviated from) was that he had enjoyed the favours of no fewer than 26 members of the faithful, though since he looked like a cross between Dr No and the National Theatre, I had my doubts from the start, even allowing for the fact that for some reason the women in these



movements (with the obvious exception of Vanessa) are so ill-favoured that the devout would be likely to cross themselves if they met one of them in the twilight, and the impious would at the least yearn for a rabbit's foot to finger superstitiously.

The debate on his political reputation, however, is quite another matter. It has been conducted in the pages of *The Guardian*, of course, and has got madder and madder as the days go by. Obviously, I do not know how the groupuscules lined up when he was expelled from whatever it was he was expelled from. I think that the Loonies (the official Loonies, that is) were on his side, but if they weren't, I have no idea why not; in any case the proliferation of political parties none of which has more than 17 members (at least 11 of them planning to secede and start their own) would make it impossible to discover who was who, let alone what was what.

From the sheaf of *Guardian*

obituaries, counter-obituaries and counter-counter-obituaries, I pluck one, a fully representative example of the amazing world these people inhabit while waiting for the dawn. It's marvellous stuff.

Jim Higgins' assessment... has the considerable merit... of placing him in the context of British Trotskyism... Yet Healy was not British Trotskyism... by the late 60s Healy had abandoned Trotskyism altogether... the groups around Ted Grant and Tony Cliff... have survived and played an important role... The fate of "official" Trotskyism is less certain, defined as it is for or against the positions of the Belgian economist Ernest Mandel... On the other hand, Cliff with his theory of state capitalism now over 40 years old... looks more relevant than ever...

You cannot... at any rate I cannot... withhold admiration for attitudes like that Healy the Trotskyist, it seems, was not British Trotskyism, and anyway had abandoned Trotskyism,

which must now test its authenticity by reference to a Belgian economist whom nobody in the world has ever heard of, while Cliff has a 40-year-old theory which presumably nobody but Ted Grant shares, if indeed he does. But, you must mark, "a genuine British Trotskyist tradition is still alive".

I bet. From disillusion to disillusion they go, these Old Faithfuls, in and out of dozens, if not hundreds, of organizations absolutely indistinguishable one from another, yet capable of unleashing against identical rivals denunciations so passionate, implacable and savage that if it were not for the fact that their membership is insufficient to provide an entire soccer team, much less an army, I would fear for the safety of our streets. Most seem to believe that the events in Eastern Europe are important principally because they must lead to the rehabilitation of Trotsky, which in turn will inevitably usher in a

heaven on earth, based as it will be entirely on Trotskyite principles, or possibly those of the Belgian economist Ernest Mandel. (Since Trotsky's political position was, broadly speaking, that anybody who disagreed with him should be killed, life in Trotskyite Britain is going to be almost excessively stimulating.)

You know Thuermer's parable of the moth and the star? The moth refused to join his fellows in their pursuit of nearby lights, choosing instead to seek a star which twinkled nightly in the sky. Jeered at for so impossible a dream, he never wavered in his certainty that he would one day reach it, and by avoiding the fate of his brothers, inevitably consumed in the candle flames, he lived to a great age; he was not at all downcast at never having reached his goal, not least because when he was very old his mind became confused, and he ended his life believing that he had in fact done so.

It would be comforting to think that there may one day be

some such solace to assuage the pain of those who sought a star, made of pure communism, so far away that even the most powerful telescope could not discern it, but the reality for them is more like that of the moths which jeered and went up in flames.

Yet it must be said that there is not much sign of unhappiness among the fragmented needlancers of the fissiparous left; on the contrary, they seem to thrive on perpetual disappointment.

Gerry Healy no doubt died in the conviction that whatever he believed in (if, by then, he knew) was about to come true, and if so, he probably died quite happy — mildly irritated by the fact that if he had lived for only another six months his party would have taken over the country; still, he was delighted for his comrades, in the true, selfless tradition of genuine revolutionaries, knowing that they were about to come into their inheritance at last. (I trust that deathbed reflections are many decades away from Vanessa; loony though she is in politics, there is still nothing wrong with her acting.)

Maybe Healy, if the stories were true, had the right idea; overthrow the government with one hand, while beckoning to some poor girl (whatever happened to Dr Bridget Rose "Dugdale" — surely she must have been let out of prison years ago?) with the other. Unorthodox, of course, but then revolutionaries are not to be trammelled by rules, least of all rules of conduct. Then again, I never heard that Trotsky was much of a ladies' man, and Lenin was even less so. Stalin, now, he had predilections which are hardly to be discussed in a respectable newspaper. But it seems that the entire membership of all the groupuscules who continue to worship at Trotsky's shrine can today be accommodated in a fairly small lift — if, that is, they are willing to suffer such proximity with traitors to the cause. Still, one thing we can predict: they would all be certain that the lift was going straight to heaven, without even stopping at the mezzanine.

Public spending: a self-imposed quandary

Pressure is clearly building up in the public sector. After the ambulance dispute, other health workers and the teachers will soon be negotiating on their pay claims. In the case of teachers, there is a growing view that the Government's overall limit on the sum available will not provide an increase sufficient to affect general recruitment, or to target areas of particular scarcity.

All this is a serious matter for the Government, given its view of the public sector as essentially an incubus on the productive private sector of the economy. However, it has never really put into practice its general view of this area of the economy and, like the Labour Party, has looked to growth to solve its dilemma.

Compare for a moment Conservative and Labour attitudes to public expenditure. For Labour politicians, particularly those influenced by the 1950s revisionism of Tony Crosland, Hugh Gaitskell and Douglas Jay, economic growth was the essen-

Raymond Plant sees lower growth undermining government rhetoric

tial ingredient if Labour was to achieve its distributive aims via public expenditure.

Economic growth and its fiscal dividends would allow the relative position of the worst off to be improved through public expenditure on health, education and welfare, while maintaining, more or less, the absolute position of the better off. This enabled Labour to accept an egalitarian stance, while not having to combat inequality directly. Growth-led public expenditure would allow levelling up rather than levelling down.

This policy is rejected by the present government, which disavows Labour's distributive aims and considers public expenditure to have harmful effects on the profitability and success of the private sector. Its approach would seem to imply big cuts to reduce the ratio of public spending as a percentage of GDP.

Despite its rhetoric, the Gov-

ernment has not had a coherent or radical public-spending policy. Although against state spending in general, it has no clear policy for consistently reducing it. At one stage it looked as though it did. In 1982 the Central Policy Review Staff produced a Cabinet paper, *Public Expenditure in the Longer Term*, which proposed the privatization of the health service, large parts of education, and aspects of social security.

The paper was leaked and the Government got cold feet. At the subsequent election, Mrs Thatcher claimed that the National Health Service was safe in Conservative hands and the possibility of a radical reform of the public sector and lowering the ratio of public sector expenditure — central to the Government's strategy — was lost.

In its place came consolidation: the level of public-sector spending would be maintained

in real terms, but the great panacea of economic growth would mean that the ratio of public-sector expenditure relative to GDP would decline. In a growing economy, the public sector would consume a declining relative share of the nation's resources, while being maintained in absolute terms.

This was always a very dodgy strategy. Had the Tories not been preaching since 1975 that the size of the public sector was an enormous brake on growth? I do not take this view, but consider what Sir Geoffrey Howe said in his notes to the CPRS document when it went to the Cabinet: "We must not make the mistake of assuming that faster growth will float us over the rock." But that is exactly what the Government did subsequently assume.

This year, as John Major argued in his Autumn Statement, the ratio of public expenditure to GDP is set to rise

because of the slowdown in growth. But, given the Government's own view of how public expenditure inhibits growth, it is interesting that it thought the consolidation strategy would work in the longer run. There must be some intellectual confusion here.

If, as Nigel Lawson argued in 1983, "...high growth will only be achieved by lower government spending", then how could the consolidation strategy ever work, since it assumed maintaining spending and looking to growth to diminish its proportion of the nation's resources?

In practice, there is little to distinguish what the Government has done from the views of the 1950s' Labour revisionists who believed that high rates of growth and high government spending could live side by side. Both used growth as a way of avoiding hard political choices, Labour about limiting the degree

of inequality, the Conservatives from making the deep cuts in public expenditure which their rhetoric required.

At least the Labour revisionists had a coherent intellectual case about the relationship between public expenditure and growth, but beyond talking rather grandly about rolling back the state, the Conservatives came to power with few plans for securing real cuts.

Samuel Brittan trenchantly makes the point in his *Restatement of Economic Liberalism*: "The practical moral of the failure of the Reagan and Thatcher attempts to cut the public spending ratio is the futility of trying to roll back public expenditure without fundamental changes in the agenda of government."

Despite 10 years of Thatcherism, we are still without a clear account of the Thatcherite agenda for limited government and a strategy for achieving it. The author is Professor of Politics at Southampton University.

Homing in at 120 calories an hour

The garage that has been looking after my car these last few years, the garage that always managed to charge me for new tyres at £120 a throw, even when it went in for replacement windscreen wipers, has given up servicing. I telephoned on Thursday to announce that my brake-pads appeared to be in need of attention; could they have a look at them? And they told me of their withdrawal from the business of making cars better and supplied me with names and addresses of firms that still did that sort of work. (The Rothschilds sacked their chef every five years as a matter of principle, arguing that a man who had not made his fortune in that time as a *maitre* of their cuisine was unworthy, by virtue of his lack of enterprise, to remain in their employ. Perhaps the garage decided it had been at it long

enough, had taken most of their clients for most of their money and was now moving on to some even more lucrative enterprise — old people's homes, perhaps.) As for me with my car that would not stop when I wanted it to stop, I rang the most conveniently situated of the recommended garages and told them of my problem. "We are very busy but bring it round and we'll have a look at it," said a man. I brought it round. A mechanic took my place behind the wheel, drove it back and forth and called out: "Watch this, fellers, the brake pedal has direct contact with the under your bonnet," he said. I wheel drum." They watched. I examined

asked how long the repair would take. They suggested I return in an hour for a considered opinion. When I came back after eating six good oysters at Wheeler's, a small man sat behind the steering wheel pressing pedals, three men gazed earnestly into the engine — one wielding his screwdriver — and a back-up man rummaged around the boot. I asked how it looked, other than expensive, which I could see for myself. The head person, he with the screwdriver, moved away from the car and reappeared with a carrier bag. "We found these plastic bits bulged with a multitude of old bread rolls, stale baps, half eaten slices of vintage toast and the remains of some sandwiches. "These," said the man, "were

scattered about your engine — under the dip-stick, beside the sump, adjacent to the windscreen washer water tank, resting on the fanbelt." As a play, it was brilliant. I who had been expecting to answer questions of the "How long have you been experiencing this?" kind was now asked to account for the presence of several rodent breakfasts under my bonnet. I looked guilty. I who had ever thought my engine to be completely free of carbohydrates.

"How do you think they got there?" I asked.

The man with the screwdriver said it could have been rats. The

fact is, he went on, the sensors are no longer doing their job, not giving the brakes the right sort of message when you press the pedal, so we shall have to take them off, send out for replacements and fit those. Could be ready later tonight.

It was not, they called to say that all seemed well but they would like to give the car a road-test in the morning, and I spent the night thinking about gourmet rats nesting under my bonnet while I had been in Portugal being rained upon. How did the rats know that my car would be there for two weeks? Are other cars' engines filled with *dejeuners* sur-

la cylinder box while the prospective diners eat their way through the brake sensors? If you should have seen me at Ascot, sort of limping as I scooped the Tote Placepot, that was only partly to do with the disaster that had struck my car. When I collected it, I slipped behind the steering-wheel to find that the driver's seat had been pushed so far forward that I ruptured my groin and banged my forehead on the windscreen. The test run had apparently also necessitated putting the passenger seat in a prone position; there were 60 additional miles on the clock and two of the £1 coins that I kept to feed parking meters had gone; probably more rats — but the brakes work again.

The bill came to £250, about the cost of two new tyres. Not a lot had changed.

هكذا من الأصل



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

HARD POUNDING

The shift in public opinion against the government in the last quarter of 1989, as recorded by the Mori poll published in *The Times* today, is hardly dramatic. Labour support has risen by only one per cent to eight per cent and although this would give Mr. Kinnock an overall lead of 50 in a general election held now, it does not offer him safe insurance against a revival of Conservative popularity if the economy were to improve. Labour is not finding it easy to break through to popularity in its own right.

Yet Mrs. Thatcher has much more reason to worry about her party's position now than during any previous mid-term shift of opinion. There is little reason to predict an improvement in opinion-forming news during at least the first half of 1990. The trend against the government may indeed become steeper. This is also suggested by the latest Gallup "snapshot" poll, published in the *Daily Telegraph*, which gives Labour a 10.5 per cent lead.

The issues which Mori shows as most worrying to most people are the National Health Service, unemployment, inflation and the environment. (A year ago unemployment came ahead of the NHS.) The government not only faces exacerbation of this concern because of the ambulance dispute. It will also be confronted by the difficult political and economic consequences of the inflationary demand for wage increases of over 10 per cent, as symbolised by Ford's offer.

Mrs. Thatcher acknowledged, in a BBC interview last week, that the government had got it wrong over the return of inflation and that getting it right again was now her overriding priority. Getting it right, however, will demand not only a tight fiscal stance in the Budget but, as the Chancellor has indicated, will probably not allow an early reduction in interest rates.

As economic growth flattens and the government is pressed by both the CBI and the TUC to reduce interest rates, it must hold firm despite the argument that high interest rates themselves actually fuel inflationary wage claims. Already the unions are arguing that

they are the victims of inflation, not its cause.

British unit labour costs are now, in Mrs. Thatcher's words, "the worst problem we have". In this situation, the government can only exhort industry not to pay wage increases which cannot be justified by productivity (though this has been happening) and itself hold as firm as it can in the public sector. That will not be easy in the present climate. The first impact of the poll tax will be felt in the spring, and that could bear heavily on the wage packets of some lower paid workers.

Sticking to her convictions, however, has always been Mrs. Thatcher's principal asset and she knows that there can be no safety now in expediency. She still has the advantage that the public shows reluctance to trust Labour or to display confidence in the statesmanlike abilities of its leader.

It is true that Labour has regained support among skilled workers (many of whom deserted to the Tories in 1979) and is doing better in the Midlands. They are not doing well enough in the south, however, where formerly the centre parties were the chief challengers to Tory dominance. Especially where the economy is concerned, the public seems to sense that Mr. Kinnock has failed to take hold of Labour's policy with the same skill and interest that he has brought to dealing with his party's internal problems.

The change in the opinion polls from a five per cent Tory lead a year ago to an eight per cent Labour lead now is a vote of protest against the failings of the government, not yet one of enthusiasm for Labour. Such lost ground can be regained by the Tories, but not as easily as in the past. Exerting financial discipline on a flagging economy and on a workforce trying to protect its wages against inflation will call not only for sound economic judgment but also for political nerve.

That nerve will be tested both by the coming Mid-Staffordshire by-election and by the county council elections in the spring. Whatever the short term political risks, restoring the stability of the currency remains the essential condition of a Conservative fourth term.

CAMBODIA'S CHANCE FOR PEACE

When the five permanent members of the Security Council met in Paris today, they will have before them a plan first suggested by an American Congressman and subsequently promoted by Australia. It attempts to bypass the stalemate reached at last August's Cambodia peace conference in Paris.

The focus of diplomatic effort then was to persuade Cambodia's four warring factions — the Hun Sen government in Phnom Penh and the opposition coalition of the Khmer Rouge, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, and the non-communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front — to agree to share power pending elections. The Australian proposal abandons the so-called quadripartite solution and proposes handing the country over to a UN administration.

Under this arrangement, the Hun Sen government would stand down, and the opposition coalition would relinquish its seat at the United Nations. The seat would remain vacant until free elections monitored by the UN had taken place. The UN interim government would be buttressed by a strong international peace-keeping force and a control commission to monitor a ceasefire.

The groundwork for five-power agreement has been laid over the past few months by Australia, which has sought the agreement of the Cambodian factions — and won it, with caveats, from all except the Khmer Rouge. The Soviet Union has concentrated on persuading the Chinese to modify their backing for the Khmer Rouge and support the plan. Mr. Igor Rogachev, a deputy foreign minister who specialises in Asian affairs, visited Peking last week and appears to have won a measure of Chinese agreement to some degree of UN involvement.

Five-power unanimity would be a quantum leap forward. If necessary, however, the other four should be prepared to say that they will go ahead without Peking, and assist Thailand to

mount an effective embargo on military supplies to the Khmer Rouge. Equally, while the operation would be easier with the agreement of all four Cambodian factions, its launch should not be made a prisoner of Khmer Rouge intransigence.

The logistics are even more formidable than the political hurdles. The UN would obviously have to "borrow" Cambodian officials, and if the Khmer Rouge were included, they would almost certainly exploit the UN flag to bolster their authority in the countryside. UN peace-keeping forces shoot only in self-defence: if the Khmer Rouge failed to observe the ceasefire, they could well need to ask for precedent-setting extensions of their rules of engagement.

Prince Sihanouk is probably correct in assuming that it would be two years before civil life and civilian confidence could be rebuilt to the point of making elections feasible. The Khmer Rouge, moreover, would probably respond to electoral defeat by resuming the guerrilla war. If UN forces were not withdrawn until it was certain that the Khmer Rouge were no longer able to seize power by force, they might well be there for five to 10 years.

No reliable accounts of the fighting in Cambodia are available. Khmer Rouge claims last week to have taken brief control of Battambang, Cambodia's second city, and to have attacked Phnom Penh itself are exaggerated. The Khmer Rouge are not yet at the gates, but the government has acknowledged losses, and is urgently recruiting troops "to fill gaps in the front line".

Western governments, because of their objections to Mr. Hun Sen's regime and its links with Vietnam, have vacillated too long while the Khmer Rouge advanced. The absolute priority is to keep the Khmer Rouge from seizing power again. It should be kept sharply in focus in Paris.

BRITONS FOR EUROPE

Sir Leon Brittan has thrown a spanner into the Berlaymont works by his dogged support for the candidacy of Mr. John Mogg for the important post of EC director-general for internal market affairs. The European Commission's decision on a series of senior appointments has been delayed while officials wrangle over the qualifications and nationality of the contenders.

Sir Leon's stance is based not only on the calibre of his candidate, once his principal private secretary as Minister for Trade and Industry, but on his desire to see Britain better represented in the Commission. Such "nationalism" runs counter to Britain's traditional approach to jobs in the European Commission. The view in Whitehall has been that lobbying for the placement and promotion of British nationals is distasteful, and contrary to the principle that the Commission should be disinterestedly "European". It is interpreted in Brussels as a failure to take the Secretariat seriously.

There is occasional Foreign Office intervention over appointments at the most senior levels — from A3 up to the A1 ranks of the director-generals, who are directly under the Commissioners. But an official policy of detachment operates for the critical junior and middle-level A7 to A4 grades. Yet these are the officials responsible for the initial formulation of European policies — the drafting stages at which they are most malleable and capable of taking British interests and ideas into account.

Under-representation at these levels has political consequences. Plans are often formulated without adequate understanding of the likely reaction to them in Britain. As a result, British objections often tend to be registered only when a proposal is ready for ministerial assent. The frequency with which

British ministers, even the Prime Minister, have had to be mobilised to mount last-minute resistance to proposals which have been maturing for months within the Commission has contributed to Britain's reputation in the Community for being negative.

There should be a more active policy of placing Britons in the Secretariat. The tendency to view jobs in Brussels as nice parting presents for civil servants on the verge of retirement should be reversed. What is needed instead is active head-hunting within domestic departments for younger talent. There should also be special training, including languages where necessary, to equip them to pass Commission recruitment examinations and to operate effectively once appointed.

If bright younger officials are to head for Brussels, they must also be encouraged to think of it as a route to domestic promotion, and not a one-way street to exile. France and West Germany guarantee their people posts on return and make a practice of promoting them *in absentia*. Such guarantees operate in Britain only for short-term secondments, and domestic upgrading while in Brussels is rare. A system of long-term secondment would not only serve British interests in Brussels, returning officials would help to familiarise home ministries with the Berlaymont machine.

Government practice has lagged behind that of the private sector. British accountants, lawyers and lobbyists are prominent and effective in Brussels. Ministers, as the Prime Minister has more than once pointed out, have worked hard to further their free-market vision of Europe. The task would be easier if they were working with the grain of a Commission in which their ideas were articulately presented.

Smoothing relations with China

From Lord Butterfield
Sir, After 10 days in Hong Kong (my thirtieth visit since 1975) it is clear we all need a signal from the East soon, resolving the crisis of confidence between Beijing, Hong Kong and London and not simply a passport proposal.

It is also clear that Mr. Hurd, whom so many of us admire, may get hostile reactions this week over there. He deserves our support in his efforts to show the Chinese leaders that a mutation in political philosophy quite as profound as the end of human sacrifice in religious ceremonies is spreading eastward as has been reconfirmed by the human rights revolution going on in the Warsaw Pact countries.

Perhaps he can also convince them that it is better to think of Hong Kong in terms of a treasure trove than as an outpost of Western student subversion. He can also remind everybody that the media, who have had so much effect in this latest thought mutation, have ensured that terror and corruption will not only get public exposure, but also a fair trial.

Mr. Hurd should also encourage Hong Kong to be more sensitive to the fears of subversion in Beijing which must be just as strong as Hong Kong's own nightmare of People's Republic bullets. If the final communiqué reiterates and confirms tripartite acceptance of the proposed "one nation, two

systems", the aforesaid mutation of thought abroad should dissolve these fears, because it would show the People's Republic as willing to avoid street disturbances like those of the Warsaw Pact countries and to concentrate on reaping the benefits Hong Kong can offer Beijing.

On the way to this conclusion Mr. Hurd should remind everyone what FCO policies have achieved in Hong Kong in less than 100 years, how we have turned steep barren rocks and a small plain into a remarkable modern city-state, all through a subtle blend of British and Chinese enterprise led by good FCO management.

He can remind Hong Kong residents of the triumph of their development, which surely ensures them a place in history and, more important, the potential of being needed by the People's Republic for expertise as well as nearly tripling its foreign revenues.

He can thus encourage Beijing to see that Mao's remarkable achievements in their very late developing country can best be frustrated by supporting Governor Wilson's ambitious plans for Hong Kong's construction and education expansion into the next century.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BUTTERFIELD,
39 Clarendon Street, Cambridge.
January 14.

Hong Kong as a going concern

From Sir Richard Dobson

Sir, Mr. Michael Short's letter (January 4) reminds us that Parliament will shortly be asked to modify immigration laws to permit the granting of right of abode in UK to a selected 2 per cent of Hong Kong Chinese, together with their dependants, perhaps 5 per cent in all.

The selection process, based on each individual's contribution to the stability of the colony, will be invidious and somewhat arbitrary, particularly at the lower end of the scale. The object, of course, is to persuade key members of government and the professions and management to remain at their jobs, secure in the knowledge that they have a place of refuge, "if the worst comes to the worst".

The prevailing assumption of the 1984 Joint Declaration is that both parties will do their best to keep Hong Kong as a going concern and do nothing to accelerate its disintegration. Mr. Short's first two proposals — that right of abode should be granted forthwith to the 3.25 million British citizens and that other countries should be persuaded to accept the other 2.25 million — can only be seen by Peking as conflicting with this aim. (The Chinese are already objecting to the small-scale offer referred to above).

As to the third proposal, the democratising of Hong Kong before 1997, assuming a democracy has by definition to be independent, this would make impossible

the undertaking that "the UK government will be responsible for the administration of Hong Kong with the object of maintaining and preserving its economic prosperity and social stability".

China is clearly anxious that this should continue, hence the assurances of the Joint Declaration after discussions in which the British held a very weak hand. I am afraid there will be a bad patch in the short term. Many of the rich have already departed Hong Kong, taking their money with them; there must surely be an outflow of capital and possibly substantial unemployment.

However, not everybody can afford to emigrate and if there is still enough talent and vitality in the place to make it worthwhile for the Chinese to keep it going after 1997 there might soon be a resurgence and capital, even, possibly, some of the departed people might start flowing back. Much will depend on how the Chinese people conduct their domestic affairs.

In the meantime the people of both Britain and Hong Kong should be seen to trust the people of China, make no further demands and refrain from provocative criticism of their internal policies. A shotgun wedding has its best prospect of success if the two principals are friends.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD DOBSON,
16 Marchmont Road,
Richmond, Surrey.
January 8.

Wheels of justice

From Mr. R. Peter Leitch

Sir, Mr. Raymond Potter's letter (January 10) may give some reassurance to members of the public, but in my view will convince few members of the solicitors' profession. He seems to be less well informed than he should be about the state of affairs in county courts generally.

It may or may not be that letters written to Bromley County Court will be read within two months. Enquiries of the Bournemouth County Court as to why we have not received a response frequently receive the reply, "You have to appreciate that we have many months of unopened mail yet to be dealt with". I also have on my desk a letter from the Portsmouth Combined Court, dated November 27, 1989, in which the Chief Clerk writes:

The Court has considerable arrears of correspondence and is only now dealing with that from August.

A recent enquiry to Salisbury County Court regarding a bill of costs submitted for taxation some months before produced the less than helpful comment: "Not yet taxed. Deputy Registrar for 3 weeks who tend to leave Bills (sic).

We are also experiencing considerable delays in the taxation of legal-aid bills, which means that my firm is subsidising the Legal Aid Board. As to criminal court delays, we have one client on remand at a local prison who was committed on October 25, 1989,

reached the Warned List. Clients on bail can face delays before the Bournemouth Crown Court of five or six months before their cases are heard.

Mr. Potter's average figures may be correct, but they can only disguise many delays in the system which should be regarded as unacceptable.

Yours faithfully,
PETER LEITCHER,
Leitcher and Son (Solicitors),
Market Place,
Ringwood, Hampshire.
January 11.

From Mr. J. C. Chesterton
Sir, Bromley County Court Office (Mr. Potter's letter) may care to liaise with their colleagues at Maidstone County Court. I lodged a bill of costs for taxation there on November 1, 1989. Three chasing letters and one telephone conversation with a very friendly clerk drew the following pro forma response from the court office dated January 8, 1990:

Your Bill is awaiting provisional Taxation in the Registrar's cupboard. Unfortunately there are numerous others also awaiting provisional Taxation but be assured that when your Bill has been Taxed you will be notified accordingly.

I derive much comfort from the fact that there appears to be only one such cupboard.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN CHESTERTON,
Bevis & Beckingsale (Solicitors),
Law Chambers,
Aminster, Devon.
January 10.

Science too pure?

From Dr. N. C. Bird

Sir, David Davis (article, January 4) is wrong to expect Britain to perform well in the technological field simply because we have a good track record in Nobel prizes. He uses the Japanese as an example of what can be achieved with applied research in the absence of a strong research base.

He fails to point out, however, that the remarkable growth in Japanese technology is a post-war phenomenon, when as early as 1902 one of their own scholars, Rintaro Mori, pointed out that they "were unable to sustain science but were enthusiastic about eating its fruits".

That nearly 600 American companies are currently enjoying the benefits of British-funded research is testimony to the fact that we are, as a nation, simply bad at translating the findings of basic research into the marketplace. It is not that

we are just good at donating our ideas to the world.

Similarly, Mr. Davis's citation of defence research as a model for generating industrial advances is perilously close to being a self-inflicted foot injury. One only has to look back 50 years to the work of academic physicists on fission to see how so-called "blue skies" research can rapidly evolve into applications whose military, economic and political power do not need restating.

It is quite right to support applied research more fully; but to do so at the expense of something that we are actually good at rather puts the other foot in danger of receiving a gunshot wound.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL BIRD,
The University of Sheffield,
University Surgical Unit,
Royal Hallamshire Hospital,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.
January 9.

Risks of Gorbachov personality cult

From Sir Reginald Hibbert

Sir, I think "Z", the writer of your article on January 11 on Mr. Gorbachov's future, is right. It is a mad world when a wave of selling hits the Tokyo, New York and other stock exchanges on the news (report, January 5) that Mr. Gorbachov has cancelled an appointment with Mr. Kinnock. This seems to reflect the extent to which the leaders and opinion formers of the Western world, with our own British ones well to the fore, have over-subscribed to the Gorbachov personality cult. Mr. Gorbachov is a creation of the Soviet communist system and the powerful forces of social and economic decay which have been working upon it. These will continue to work upon it whether he stays or goes and will exert the same pressure on any successors as they exert on him.

He has been, and is, an admirable architect of *perestroika*, but it would be an error to regard him as the only possible architect of it or his *perestroika* as the only possible model. It would be even more of an error to regard him as the unique incarnation of *perestroika*. It has long seemed likely that the Soviet Union will decline into a time of troubles than that it will live happily ever after under Mr. Gorbachov.

In any case there is nothing that the Western powers can do that is likely to have more than a marginal effect on Mr. Gorbachov's eventual fate. Rather than concentrate on not making things difficult for Mr. Gorbachov, as seems to be the present fashion, it would be better to concentrate on

helping the countries of Eastern Europe to free themselves completely from the Soviet Union's shackles. The processes in train there already look irreversible, but a great deal of consolidation and political creativeness is going to be needed and only the Western powers can give the necessary help.

The coming together in some form of the two Germanies will be the decisive move, just as the division of Germany was the decisive move in creating the Soviet bloc. The Soviet Union will need and deserve security guarantees on the lines indicated in Lord Callaghan's admirable article on January 5; but the West ought to do nothing which might keep the Warsaw Pact alive.

It is this which raises doubts about the present tendency to look to Nato as the lead organisation on the Western side and to speak of Nato being transformed from a defence to a political instrument. Something different and new will be needed if the Eastern European countries are to be helped to become truly independent.

If something is created, Mr. Gorbachov may still be in Moscow to enjoy it. But fixing the Soviet Union's new and less oppressive place in the world should be the objective, not fixing (or rather purporting to fix) Mr. Gorbachov's place in the Soviet Union.

Yours faithfully,
REGINALD HIBBERT,
Fronde, Pennal,
Machynlleth, Powys.
January 11.

Help for Romania

From the Director, International Division, British Red Cross

Sir, Nicholas Mellor's letter (January 9) on Romania raised some interesting points, for example about the chronic shortages of medical supplies and the distribution difficulties.

However, I was surprised that he found no UK organisation geared up to provide immediate help. On December 24, a plane-load of some 30 tons of specifically requested medical supplies was assembled and sent by the British Red Cross to Romania via Bulgaria. Red Cross societies all over Europe sent hundreds of tons of relief aid, coordinated by Romania by a team from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

All societies strove to meet the needs defined by experts on the spot as regards both supplies and personnel. With some 36,000 native doctors in Romania, foreign medical teams were not considered to be essential in the early stages.

The British Red Cross was sorry not to be able to support Mr. Mellor's arduous journey to Romania because all its efforts

were directed towards organising the airlift which enabled medical supplies to arrive in Romania by Christmas Day.

Mr. Mellor asks how the impressive and generous response in cash and kind of individuals can best be mobilised. The answer is: by uncompromising adherence to the principle of seeking immediate and precise information from those on the spot in disaster areas, and urgently channelling donations to secure whatever is required, wherever it can be secured most effectively.

There is no place for competition between nations when responding to an international appeal for help. The Union Jack does not distinguish goods purchased with British-donated money. For example, Mr. Mellor's arrival in Romania coincided with that of six desperately-needed four-wheel drive vehicles purchased in Holland with cash generously given by the British people.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WYATT, Director,
International Division,
British Red Cross,
9 Grosvenor Crescent, SW1.
January 10.

Marconi's claim

From Mr. D. P. Leggatt

Sir, You report (January 11) doubts on the authenticity of Marconi's transatlantic radio transmissions of December 12, 1901. The signals were said to have been heard, on earphones, only by Marconi and his assistant George Kemp and it is therefore easy to suggest, if one is so minded, that Marconi's claim was mistaken or fraudulent. But few, if any, wireless historians would agree that the circumstances support this view.

The signal was the Morse letter "S" (three dots) which needs no expertise in Morse code to know and recognise. The "S" was transmitted continuously in a repetitive pattern readily distinguished from random static interference. Furthermore the dots were short buzzes with a characteristic sound recognisable as the Poldhu spark transmitter.

The Marconi company was indeed in financial difficulty at the time, for which reason Marconi

did not care to risk publicly-known failure and so kept his transatlantic intentions under wraps. For just the same reason he is most unlikely to have risked a false claim to a success which could not be repeated, since this would have undermined public confidence in the company to the point of financial disaster.

In fact objective verification came three months later when Poldhu signals were recorded on paper tape on the SS Philadelphia, 2,000 miles from Cornwall. The tapes were signed as authentic by the ship's captain.

A commercially reliable transatlantic radio service had to await development of more sensitive receiving apparatus, and the more powerful transmitter at Cheltenham on the west coast of Ireland which opened in October, 1907.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK LEGGATT (Chairman,
British Vintage Wireless Society),
Garretts Farm, Pankridge Street,
Crandall,
Farnham, Surrey.
January 11.

Museum charges

From the Director of the British Museum

Sir, The British Museum, like the Science Museum (letter, January 12), telephoned the Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts and asked to give evidence about museum charges.

We were told that the committee was taking oral evidence from three museums only — the National Gallery, the National Maritime Museum and the Victoria and Albert.

We were told — unlike the Science Museum — that there was no room in the timetable for another museum to appear before the committee; we were allowed, however, to put in a written submission. The record should be kept straight.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID M. WILSON,
Director,
The British Museum,
Great Russell Street, WC1.
January 12.

From the President of Trinity College, Oxford

Sir, The Director of the Science Museum seems to think that his offer to give evidence to the Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts explains why the committee did not take sufficient evidence from museum directors opposed to museum admission charges: hardly a scientific approach.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BURGH,
Trinity College, Oxford.
January 12.

Where credit's due

From Mr. G. F. Hastings

Sir, Over the years I have been sent some understandably angry letters from viewers who have discovered, by hook or by crook, that my house was the location used for a television production (for example, *Tales of the Unexpected* and P. D. James's *Cover Her Face*).

Since the first of those letters arrived, I have always asked for a screen credit, for the sake of the public, but only once have I succeeded in persuading the executives to grant my request. Their answer is usually, "The unions wouldn't wear it" — an argument which Mr. Ketley's letter (January 10) helps to explain: the producers must credit every assistant dog-body, not for the instruction of their public, but in the observance of some interminable status ritual.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE HASTINGS,
Raintonhoe Hall,
Tasburgh, Norfolk.

From Mr. A. G. Waller

Sir, The one person who is never mentioned in the end-of-programme credits is the page turner for the pianist in a televised recital. Surely he should oust the tea-boy's tea-boy.

Yours sincerely,
A. G. WALLER,
8 Russell Avenue, Wyke Road,
Weymouth, Dorset.

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THE ARTS

Further adventures in Gray matter

TELEVISION
Sheridan Morley

Alongside his stage plays about semi-detached academics in waspish mid-life crisis (*Barley*, *Otherwise Engaged*, *The Common Pursuit*), Simon Gray has been developing an intriguing time in stage and screen thrillers. This started in the theatre a decade or so ago with *Stage Struck* and moved more recently on to television with *After Pilkington*.

His *Old Flames*, which opened what looks like a very promising "Screen Two" series on BBC 2 last night, was the best yet. It was a creepy urban mystery rooted in a lost friendship from his own school days, and superbly played by Stephen Fry and Simon Callow, in one of the greatest thriller double-acts since Hitchcock first put Basil Rathbone and Naunton Wayne into *The Lady Vanishes*.

Gray's screenplay was full of subtle references to Hitchcock and Agatha Christie, and had one running gag of rather less subtlety. All the victims on the killers' hit-list bore the names of contemporary London drama critics, and I have yet to decide whether I am relieved or insulted to have been left off it. But what really mattered here was the speed and confidence of Christopher Morahan's direction and of Kenneth Trodd's production; it lurched from *Ten Little Niggers* into *Psycho* and then back towards *The Old Dark House*.

Starting at a school reunion cricket match, where Fry and Callow met again some years after something unspeakable had happened in the changing rooms, *Old Flames* rapidly turned into black farce. The odd couple found themselves on a mysterious list of men to whom incompressible airline tickets were being sent and in whose name roast pigs were being despatched to indignant Orthodox Rabbis all over North London.

At a time when the West-End thriller would sadly seem to be in terminal decline, Gray is offering television audiences something vastly more witty and literate. Expensively and extensively filmed in the Law Courts and within the sacred (and hitherto, I think, misused) portals of the Garrick Club, *Old Flames* followed the childless, ineffectual superior Fry and the sweaty, loose-limbed Callow across town to the home of Callow's sister (Miriam Margulies), an infinitely sinister guardian devil.

Playing the nerdy violinist, ever more hysterical as the hit-list shortens to his name, Callow got more and more frantic as Fry got more and more uptight. At the end you hoped against hope that they would survive the various threats to their lives and sanity in order to progress through other mysteries.

To be sure, the plot had a couple of shaky moments through which a school bus could have been driven; but it also had a stylish cohesion, underpinned by Gray's deep knowledge of British academic and social traditions, which made it the greatest tele-treat of an admittedly still rather new year.

Despite talk of a yet another jazz revival, Clive Davis finds that the true audience for all its varieties remains small and fragmented

For a precious few

ALAN WELLS



Hi-tech instant replay: the Robin Jones King Salsa Band (right) on stage and on the video wall (left) at the Double Bass Club in London, SW5

It all looks very encouraging—if you are not middle-aged with a beer belly. Across London, there is no shortage of places devoted to live jazz. Venues such as the Jazz Cafe and The Vortex—both in Stoke Newington—seem to be full of journalists out to document the mania for improvised music. If some of the media reports are to be believed, we are on the verge of creating an end-of-the-century rival to New Orleans, with an eager jazz public to match.

Not everyone is quite so euphoric, not even the club man-

agers themselves. Henry Dom and the Double Bass's Jamie Bell concede that attendances are still erratic and sometimes downright dismal. Latin and fusion bands do best, though not everyone would agree that their music really qualifies as jazz in the first place.

At The Vortex, a café with an uncompromisingly modern programme, "appalling nights" can attract as few as 10 people. The average is around 30, with the best figures gained by the occasional week-long projects devoted to individual musicians.

"The reality is nothing like the sunny story portrayed in some of the articles," says Brian Blain, of the Musicians' Union. "Journalists who write about jazz tend to feel obliged to be up-beat, but it's just not true that audiences are turning up in droves. The small venues can get by if they can make money on drinks and meals. But they are very small. The only big place that's still regularly doing good business is Ronnie Scott's."

Jazz being what it is, some purists would probably be upset if their haunts actually were as

popular as Scott's. While it is still the place to see jazz, casual visitors who go along for the ambience rather than the music often get out of hand. Scott's deadpan response—"Yes, sir. I remember my first drink"—sees service virtually every night.

With its high overheads, the club is in no position to turn away the business parties and after-hours drinkers. Other owners are still trying to work out ways of improving business without losing the hard-core listeners. Arif Sheikh, who opened Charley's in

West Kensington nearly three years ago, has few illusions about the problem: "It is no good relying on jazz buffs in this business, because they never have any money. They have one Perrier all evening, and that's it."

"Ordinary customers do like to talk when the musicians are playing. I have to make sure I'm a pain and tell them to keep quiet." Around the corner from Ronnie Scott's, Pizza Express in Dean Street offers one of the few regular venues for music from the mainstream, or pre-bop era. Formally

launched in 1976, the cellar is the archetypal jazz den: small, smoky and gregarious. Its role in promoting less fashionable sounds is often overlooked.

The proprietor, Peter Boizot, also runs the supper-club venue Pizza On The Park, and publishes a monthly magazine, *Jazz Express*. Despite all the activity, he still has doubts about the notion that the jazz audience is expanding. His venues—subsidized by revenue from the large Pizza Express chain—still bring in little in the way of profits. "A lot of venues have come along in the past few years. Not many of them last very long."

Although it may be an over-simplification, a part of the problem is that the upsurge of media interest has been focused on bebop and modernism. Music from earlier eras has been more or less ignored.

Traditional and mainstream jazz are still enormously popular with the older fans, but they tend to be the type to stay at home dusting off gramophone records rather than frequenting clubs and restaurants.

Bop and "new music" make few concessions to the casual listener—the kind of person, in effect, that clubs need to win over. If the public is allowed to assume that jazz is synonymous with bop and beyond, there is a risk that it will remain very much a minority interest, confined to the subsidized concert halls and the circuit of small cafs.

Brian Blain suggests it would be naive to expect anything else: "A musician friend of mine summed it up for me recently. He said that, in general, people like the idea of jazz, they like jazz in the background, they like music tinged with jazz. The trouble is, they just don't like jazz."

Pulling the punches

THEATRE
Alasdair CameronFitting for Ladies
Royal Lyceum,
Edinburgh

A successful production of a farce should conjure up for the audience a terrifying vision of the worst day of their lives, while at the same time giving them their best night in the theatre. Robert J. Carson's new production of Feydeau's *Fitting for Ladies* may not hit either extreme but it is an evening of stylish entertainment, which very occasionally reminds us that something dark and dangerous lurks beneath the surface of the play.

This subtext is important to Carson but he is hoist by his own programme notes, which discuss Feydeau's fascination with the bourgeoisie of the Third Empire and their perception of marriage and its relationship to sex, money and fashion. Instead of using this to inform his production, as Richard Hudson memorably did in *A Flea in Her Ear*, Carson presents an amusing but soft-grained romp through marital infidelity.

The difference between the two approaches to Feydeau is illustrated by the canine stars of the respective shows: Hudson chooses

a rather sinister Alstian, and Carson a pretty little poodle.

Designer Kenny Miller has set the play in a Paris apartment furnished with a fashionable 1980s sparseness. But instead of universalizing the play, this tasteful but very unbourgeois setting and his eclectic costuming rob the production of a detailed social background in which respectability or at the very least appearances matter.

The cast, however, is very strong, led by Jonathan Hackett as Moulineaux. He keeps his frenzied deceptions on the boil, aided by Kate Garside in full-feathered rig as Madame Aubin.

Frankie Cosgrave bravely triumphs over her most unbecoming costume of cutaway crinolines and fruited Forties sandals, to provide some asphyxiating Molyneux's mother-in-law, Madame Agnès. Dan Mullaney is a wonderfully lugubrious butler, Raad Rawi a manically jealous husband and would-be lover of Irene MacDougall's sensuous Rosa.

Carson's production, which gathers pace as the evening progresses, is very well supplied with good things, such as the masked balls wittily choreographed by Gregory Nash. But it is Carson's coda which takes the audience by delighted surprise. As the play draws to a close, Sue Plack, as the dumb maid, sprouts wings and stops the show to sing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow", while throwing dust-sheets over the cast who have frozen into elegant postures. It is a moment to treasure in a production to enjoy.



Kate Garside "in full-feathered rig" as Madame Aubin, with Raad Rawi as her manically jealous husband but would-be lover of another

We should not forget the poor foot-soldiers

DANCE
John PercivalCinderella
Covent Garden

We have been hearing comments lately from Covent Garden's management that the Royal Ballet dancers benefit from a career structure. This somewhat naive contribution to pay negotiations seems to mean that some dancers, like some singers, will become soloists or stars, while others will spend their whole career in the chorus.

These last named have their part to play in the audience's pleasure, and a vital part too, especially in respect of the *corps de ballet*, since any slip by one of them is far more likely to be noticed than any fault in a chorus singer. Often, however, their contribution goes unnoticed in print.

Let me take this opportunity, then, of remarking that one of the many respects in which Frederick Ashton excelled most chore-

graphers was in the extent of the demands he put upon the supporting ensemble in his ballets. Looking at his *Cinderella*, for instance, there are many moments when the *corps* holds centre stage, and it is only fair to record that over the years their standard has been a lot less variable than that of the soloists or the orchestra.

It was, of course, for changes among the principals that I was summoned to Saturday afternoon's performance, and it was a pleasure to admire the scintillating solos of Tetiana Kamaikawa as the jester, and to see the step-sisters less crudely played than by the first night couple. David Bintley's co-ger meekness in what used to be the Ashton role is very funny. Guy Niddett's pearly business could do with much fine tuning, but they play respectfully to each other.

Beneficially, *Cinderella* and her prince are no longer overshadowed by the slapstick. Viviana Durante has a wide-eyed radiance that must have won the hearts of many young first-time spectators (and their elders too). Bruce Sansom's smiling courtesy likewise, and they, too, work well together.

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Puffing the preview, or romancing the box

As Sheridan Morley takes over as *The Times* television critic, one of our retiring team of critics, William Holmes, is emboldened to reveal some of the secrets of this arcane craft

So there will be no more afternoons closeted in the dank basement of BBC Television Centre; no more mornings struggling with the coffee machine at BAFTA; no more treks to that preview theatre in the dubious alley by the gay club near Tottenham Court Road station.

No more fielding those ominous phone calls which begin: "Hi, we'd love to send you a tape of episode 15 of *Investigations into the Paranormal Life of Guinea Figs*... you will be able to give a mention, won't you... the producer would love you to ring her at home so she can explain about the blank bit eight minutes in..."

It is no cushy life staring at the box for a living. Comparatively happy is the relaxed existence of the Sunday critic: at least he can hope to watch the programmes as they happen, free from the intervention of press officers, producers and promoters. The rest of us have to participate regularly in unnatural acts between consenting critics which go under the name of reviewing.

Because, if you are not lucky enough to be offered a man on a motor-bike bearing the best tapes of the day (and somehow you always seem to be offered the worst of the day), there is no escaping the preview.

The initial pre-emptive act is to decide in advance, by solid research methods, such as laborious flicking through *Radio Times* and *TV Times*, what is likely to be fun, and search it out in the extensive TV company press handouts (the backs of which usefully provide a life-time supply of typing paper). Then it's off to the preview.

A well-established hierarchy rules these occasions. The finest is the pure, star-laden, PR-heavy, showbiz puff, where Lenny Henry hoots it to a restaurant in Shepherd's Bush, and the ritual viewing of the programme in an upper room is a mere prelude to

lunch, followed by more lunch. Meanwhile, the glamour writers glean nuggets for their columns from our hero. The rest of us get busy quietly discussing Wittgenstein among ourselves. That arguable humiliation apart, this standard of presentation is all too infrequent.

Then there is the preview theatre viewing which turns out to be entirely populated by anxious members of the programme team desperate to answer your questions on the *magnum opus* they have set before you.

You can understand their eagerness: after all, the amount of cogitation and heart-searching, not to mention sheer hard work, which goes into most television documentaries is ridiculously excessive, considering their final length and impact. And here come the critics, specialists in nothing except the cutting witticism, preparing to dispose of it in a few barbed sentences. The atmosphere of strained anticipation as a single critic struggles to find a single question is unbearable.

Lower down on the ladder of previewing life is the informal occasion arranged for three or four critics who turn out to have the same needs on the same day. This takes place in various ITV company press offices.

Even here, complex social mores prevail. You always wait for Nancy Banks-Smith, in case she's coming. Use of the video fast-forward mode to get through the most excruciating stretches of an Australian mini-series is suggested at your professional peril. It is not done to ask for anything stronger

than Perrier water at 11 am, even if the programme demands a total anaesthetic.

At the bottom of these forms of life, in all senses, is that BBC basement. Down the emergency stairs, through the double doors, turn right by the lift, just opposite the tape warehouse where men with large trolleys linger, there is a

room with no view. It is almost big enough for you, a television, a video player and (a bit of a squeeze until you put it in the player) the video cassette. It may not be the right cassette: "Ah, that's last week's." Back through the double doors, up the emergency stairs... This is what life in the bunker will be like.

The final *coup de grâce*: you get home, you have filed your copy; time for a drink, and wouldn't it be nice to put your feet up with a good television programme? And the only thing on the box? Yes, it's the wretched documentary you've just reviewed.

Good luck, Sherry.

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The pocket-size revolution

Our idea of what a portable computer is and what job it should do is about to change.

Old images of the portable as an overweight monstrosity, hopelessly underpowered compared with its desktop equivalent, have been shrugged off over the past year. Models now going on sale are smaller than before and can be as powerful as any desktop microcomputer. Unreadable screens and undesirable price tags are also on the way out.

Some manufacturers have been quick to recognize that portable computer technology has improved in leaps and bounds to a point where today's laptop or luggable is in some cases more powerful and affordable than a tried and trusted desktop.

This lower cost, smaller size and increased versatility point to portables as the rising stars of a new decade at a time when the rapid growth in sales of bread-and-butter products — standard personal computers (PCs) — seems to be slowing again.

A selection of market research estimates shows that growth in the PC market will have dropped to just 2 per cent this year, compared with about 7.5 per cent two years ago — a far cry from the early 1980s which saw rates hit the 30 per cent mark and above.

By comparison, the United States-based market researcher, Dataquest, predicts that portable computer sales will shoot up world-wide this year to 3.5 million units from the 1988 estimate of 817,000. Leading that wave will be a new generation of machines designed simply to replace today's desktop, yet be light enough to be carried from office to office, or small enough to slip into an inside pocket.

The technical improvements that have brought portables more

**Today's portables
are a far cry from the
early models,
Clive Couldwell says**

into line with their desktop equivalents, and therefore persuaded buyers to take the former more seriously, include a more sophisticated version of the familiar liquid crystal display (LCD). This can now present a far crisper image in weak lighting.

Colour, available for years with desktop machines, is beginning to emerge in portable flat-panel displays. Toshiba, IBM, Sharp and NEC are at the forefront of colour display research, and Hitachi launched an offering at the end of last year.

The way computers are manufactured has also undergone radical change because of surface mount technology (SMT), which packs a larger number of functions carried out by fewer components into a smaller space.

Argument has long raged in the computing world about whether portable computers form a separate market from desktop micros and whether users might be likely to buy both. The early portables were looked on as a substitute for cheap desktop power and there has been much dispute about how portable a computer can be and still be useful. Most machines in the portable category vary in weight between a few pounds and 25 lb and vary correspondingly in size and bulk.

In the early days, two kinds of users needed portability and, to a certain extent, still do. There are those who move around a lot — usually in cars and trains — and who are constantly on the look-out

for machines that are small and light. And there are those who need their system mainly in the office, but like to move the portable when necessary, usually by car or taxi. For this group of buyers, power and capacity are more important than the desire to keep weight to a minimum.

Salespeople love portables and by their nature fall into the first category. On average, a sales executive will spend 70 per cent of all work time travelling to and from customers, filling in paperwork back at the office, attending company meetings and chatting over the telephone. A mere 30 per cent or less is actually spent with the client. With a portable, he or she can cut travelling time by 10 per cent, attend half the number of meetings and spend more time with the client.

It all depends on the quality of information at the fingertips. Today's portable has access to marketing information (such as mailing lists and client profiles) held on one office computer, price and availability on another, and news about competition and how to cope with it possibly on a third.

Reorganizing that sort of varied information to represent it graphically on a portable beneath a client's nose improves company image and makes an executive more authoritative.

Last year's round of rail and tube strikes neatly illustrated the second group. Hit by a series of one-day disputes which made their operations difficult each Wednesday, some companies rented portable computers for their key executives, who took their work home.

The portable market, surveying the type of machine available, has split into segments. At the top end, there is the heavy, mains-powered luggable with state-of-the-art technology, probably incorporating



Peter Baldwin (left) and David Frodsham of Distributive Information Processing with a Portfolio, Atari's pocket-size IBM-compatible computer. Intel's top-end chipper and carrying the sort of storage-screen options you would expect in a desktop machine.

Further down the range is a family of more portable machines based on the 80286 or 80386 processor with colour screen and

8MB of memory, which chug along at their own speed.

They can also run their hard disc off a battery for a limited amount of time. Like their mains-powered cousins, these machines are an attractive proposition for executives who want to be produc-

tive away from the office and with professionals such as auditors, and insurance agents and sales personnel.

Lower in ranking is the laptop: light and small machines for people who do not care whether they are using the latest technol-

ogy. They simply want to run basic word-processing and perhaps a spreadsheet or two.

At the bottom of the market is the ideas portable — a Filofax-size machine which can be brought out of a jacket pocket in order to check a few facts.

Handful of knowledge

It has been said that the ideal portable computer is almost impossible to build. But recently manufacturers have been trying to disprove this by turning the ultimate in miniaturization into a useful business tool, so creating two new types of personal computer, the "pocket" PC and the "notebook".

In the former camp are such machines as the Pocket, DIP/Atari's Portfolio, Micro-writer's Agenda and the Sharp IQ-7000; in the latter comes NEC's Ultralite, Psion's Mobile, the Toshiba T1000SE, Zenith's MiniSport and Compaq's LTE.

Early reaction to a pocket-sized machine which could be used as a conventional computer was not favourable. It was viewed more as an executive toy than a serious business aid.

Most hand-held devices of the time were and still are used purely for data collection. For some, the need is limited to feeding figures directly into a terminal. Those whose working day is spent gathering information on the hoof need something as small as a hand-held device and tough enough to survive the daily grind. For others, a portable computer is ideal for financial planning and producing quotations. So far, though, only the larger breed of more powerful system can run sophisticated modelling software — not the sort of

**Manufacturers are
trying to realize
the dream of the
perfect portable**

punch today's pint-size portable can match.

The same goes for the presentation of information to a client — the size and clarity of a pocket-size screen is usually unsatisfactory.

Compatibility with the MSDOS computing standard is considered by many to be a prerequisite for any machine, so that software programs designed to run on desktop computers can also run on a portable. The ability to exchange information easily between any portable and the office machine is a high priority for people who work on the move.

Most computer users are not interested in technology for its own sake; they simply want to get on with the job at hand. That means working with a program with which they are familiar. A way around this is to come up with a computer design which has some of the conventional features buyers have come to expect but which uses new technology.

This leads to the "notebook" — a new breed of portable computer midway between a desktop and a hand-held roughly the size of an A4

sheet of paper. NEC's Ultralite has set the notebook ball rolling with a lightweight machine with software programs stored on removable memory cards. These devices serve much the same function as a floppy disc in a conventional PC but are less bulky. Psion's Mobile also stores the instructions needed to run itself on the equivalent of an intelligent credit card.

These machines and others like them are fully functional PCs in a smaller box which do not sacrifice features for size and weight.

Similar technology can be seen in the "pocket" arena, though these machines pretend to be nothing other than electronic Filofaxes — a means of taking notes at meetings and calling up basic facts. Information can be transferred but only in its simplest form.

Experience shows it takes a while for the buying public to accept new ideas, but success ultimately shines through. After all, it is nearly 20 years since computer guru Alan Kay said the perfect portable computer was something woven into your shirt. His dream was of a small portable which carried all the information one would ever need. The pocket-sized machines on today's market may well be breaking ground for the truly hand-held portable of the future.

Clive Couldwell



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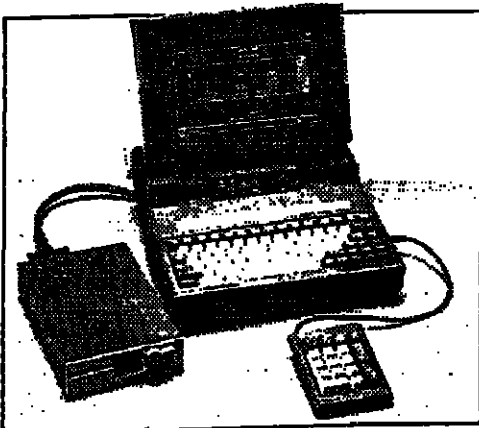
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Older models can offer many extras — and a few drawbacks



Key to success: Cambridge Z88 computers being used by students at Middlesbrough Macmillan College

You do not have to spend a fortune to buy a portable computer these days. A number of laptops can be purchased for less than £500, yet still offer a good deal more than basic word-processing functions.

A number of bargains can be had in this price range, with leading retailers selling off older portable computers from IBM, Olivetti and Amstrad at sometimes less than half their original cost. But there can be drawbacks.

Last year, for example, you could buy IBM's Convertible portable computer from Dixons. This machine provided many functions, but it failed as a popular business product when originally launched in 1986 because it offered a poor flat-screen display and required the addition of heavy add-on modules if extra facilities were required.

Criticism of the screen display dogged both the laptops from Olivetti and Amstrad, so if you are looking at an older, low-cost PC-compatible, keep in mind that there are some good reasons why the machines are cheap.

Meanwhile, there are a number of newer laptops — such as Psion's Mobile Computer range, Cambridge Computers' Z88 and Tandy's Model 102 — which provide a reasonable level of non-compatible computing, often for less than £500.

The newest of these systems — the Psion MC200 — is also the most expensive of the three. With a starting price of £545 (excluding VAT), it breaks new portable

Bargain buys for less than £500

computing ground in a number of important ways. Firstly, it is the first laptop at this price level to include a graphical user interface — which simply means that you control the computer by moving your finger around on a touch pad and using it to move an on-screen pointer on to pictures representing what you want to accomplish.

Secondly, the MC200 is the first portable to use the new "flash EPROM" technology, developed jointly by Psion and leading chip-maker Intel. This technology means that MC200 users can use solid state disks of up to 512K RAM to store information. As it is a new machine, however, the MC200 still lacks a large base of software. It does, however, come with software that provides word-processing, database, diary, calculator, alarms and computer communications facilities.

Sir Clive Sinclair's Cambridge Computers Z88 is a little older than the Psion range, having been initially launched in February 1987, but remains highly popular.

It is still the laptop of choice for scores of computer and hi-tech journalists, who use it chiefly as an electronic notebook.

The Z88 includes facilities for database, spreadsheet and communications work, as well as a diary, calculator, alarm clock and the BASIC programming language. It provides optional facilities to transfer information to IBM-compatible personal computers, the Apple Macintosh range and the BBC Micro series. In addition, spreadsheet information stored on the Z88 can be moved into leading PC and Macintosh spreadsheets such as Lotus 1-2-3 and Microsoft Excel. The Z88 can be had for between £200 and £300.

Finally, the oldest low-cost laptop in this collection is Tandy's 102, an update of its even older Model 100 and 101 systems. Unlike the Z88 and the MC200, the 102 does not offer any removable memory cartridges and uses a 40-character display, rather than the more accurate 80-column display offered by most portables these days.

The 102 is, however, established and well-supported. It is available from all Tandy outlets throughout the UK, includes a good basic word-processor, address book and diary and enough communications software to handle the business of moving information from laptop to PC and from laptop to computer modem.

If you want a good, basic and well-proven portable, the 102 is still worth a look.

Geoff Wheelwright

One small step to a big success

Portable laptop computers that can do almost as much as their big brothers are fast approaching, Jim Lennox reports

Most portable computers are of the "clamshell" design. These use a flat screen which folds down over the keyboard, like a clam opening and closing.

Almost all clamshell computers are IBM compatible — this allows their owners to use the same software and data as back at the office. IBM-compatible clamshells range in weight from one to almost 20lb. They use micro-processors from the humble 8088 to the powerful 80386.

The biggest division is between machines which run off batteries and those which need mains power. Most owners of battery-powered machines use their machine connected to the mains for most of the time. But they like to have the option of battery power for occasions when mains power is not available.

Until recently, the leading battery-powered clamshells weighed 12lb or more. But at the end of 1989, the three companies which dominated the clamshell market — Compaq, Toshiba and Zenith — all launched attractive battery-powered machines weighing around 6lb.

When 18 years ago, computer guru Alan Kay proposed the concept of the Dynabook — an innovative book-sized computer that would be cheap enough for every schoolchild to own — it seemed far fetched. Today's technology is just about capable of producing one.

Toshiba's T1000SE (£1,295 plus VAT) is an attractive member of the new generation of "notebook" portables. Zenith's Minisport (£1,195) is slightly less bulky than the Toshiba and Compaq LTE (£1,495), thanks to its use of two-inch disk drives. But it weighs the same and has the same battery life as the Toshiba and Compaq, both

of which use standard-size disk drives.

The Compaq has two advantages over its rivals: there is a hard-disk option (£500 extra) and an "AT-compatible" version, the LTE/286 (£2,450), which uses the more powerful 80286 micro-processor and yet weighs only 6lb. These notebook IBM compatibles are aimed at people who are on the move and want to carry a computer with them most of the time.

The next big market is for machines which are not moved so often but which need to be more powerful. The three dominant machines here are the Compaq

'When computer guru Alan Kay proposed the concept of an innovative book-sized computer, it seemed far fetched'

SLT/286 (£3,295), Toshiba T1600 (£3,195) and Zenith Supersport 286 (£3,195). Companies such as Epson, Sharp, Tulip and Olivetti produce similar models.

All these machines are AT compatible (which means they are fairly powerful) and have hard disks. Most have higher-resolution screen displays than the notebook portables and they weigh between 12lb and 18lb.

For those on a budget, there are a number of clamshell portables which are not as powerful as the AT compatibles and not as light as the notebook portables. Hitachi, Kaypro, Sanyo, Tandy, Toshiba and Victor all offer reasonable, battery-powered IBM compatibles for under £1,000.



On the go: the Compaq LTE measures 8½ x 11 in and weighs 6lb

By far the cheapest IBM-compatible portable is the Amstrad PPC (from £399). Rather than the usual, single hinge between keyboard and screen, the Amstrad has a keyboard that folds down from the main body and a screen that hinges up.

Laptop computers accounted for about 9 per cent of all IBM-compatible computers sold in the UK in 1989 and more than 800,000 were sold world-wide. This year they should take a still bigger share.

Not all clamshell machines are IBM compatible. The most notable example of this is the recently launched Macintosh Portable (£3,995) from Apple. This impres-

sive machine is compatible with the rest of the Macintosh range and has pioneered several areas of technology. Other non-IBM-compatible machines which use the clamshell design include the Tandy 200, Atari Portfolio, and the Psion MC200 and MC400.

At the one end will be the notebook machines which emphasise portability. They will become smaller and lighter so they really can be carried everywhere and often will be used to supplement a conventional desktop machine back at the office. The other trend is for the more powerful portables to gradually replace conventional desktop machines by matching everything they can do.

COMPAQ MAKES ANOTHER SIZEABLE CONTRIBUTION TO PERSONAL COMPUTING.



A world leader in portables presents two new lightweight battery powered portable PCs, the COMPAQ LTE and COMPAQ LTE/286.

Each weighs a mere six pounds and occupies a space no larger than a copy of 'The Economist', yet they offer the functionality of desk-bound personal computers, so you can run your favourite software.

Computing power you can take with you anywhere and use everywhere.

The batteries provide over three and a half hours of continuous operation, or you have the option to run the PCs from your car cigarette lighter or the mains.

You can work as well on the road as you can in your office; processing orders, updating stock levels, re-working spreadsheets... whatever.

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phone, cutting out time-wasting trips back to base. Or when you do go back, you aren't lugging piles of paper for your secretary to type up; it's all in your COMPAQ PC ready to print out.

With standard-spaced keys, you won't find fingers turning into thumbs. And wherever you are, the backlit screen makes it easy to work in any light. Now all you have to do is decide which one fits you best.

The COMPAQ LTE is excellent for standard record keeping, word processing, spreadsheets and electronic mail.

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Improving with age

Portable computers need to be small, light and low in power consumption — and for this they need more advanced technology than almost any other type of computer.

The most obvious sign of advanced technology are flat display screens. No portable can accommodate the bulk, weight and high power consumption of the cathode ray tubes used in desktop screens.

The most common flat screen is the liquid crystal display (LCD) — giant versions of the LCDs used by calculators and digital watches. LCDs are light, cheap and use little power. While the display they produce is not as good as conventional monitors, dramatic changes in recent years mean that LCD screens no longer produce a murky light-grey on dark-grey image.

Some LCD screens rely on reflecting light, but many new screens have built-in back lighting which improves their contrast considerably. The resolution of LCD screens has also improved, and the first colour LCD screens are starting to appear.

An important new development is the "active matrix" LCD. This gets around the problem of the slight lag before an image appears. Apple became the first to use an active matrix LCD in its recently launched Macintosh Portable. Active matrix LCDs also give higher contrast, so they can be used without back-lighting, thus saving power.

The only rivals of LCD screens are gas plasma screens. Each gas plasma screen is like a collection of tens of thousands of minute fluorescent tubes, and so is able to give a bright image. The disadvantage is that gas plasma screens need a lot of power and so are not suited to battery-powered machines. Toshiba recently surprised everyone by producing a battery-powered portable with a gas plasma display.

Most users of portable computers want the option of running their computers from rechargeable batteries. Virtually all battery-powered machines use nickel-cadmium (nicad) batteries. The only problem with this type of battery is that it should be fully charged and then fully discharged before it is recharged.

Nicad batteries suffer from a "memory effect" which reduces the battery's capacity if the proper charge cycle is not followed. This effect can also fool the electronics which prevent the battery from being over-charged and which warn when battery power is about to run out.



One of the latest advancements in portables is colour LCD screens, such as the recently launched PC8081 from Sharp

Computer technology has become centred on producing the perfect portable. Jim Lennox reports

These problems have largely been overcome by improved battery-management electronics which carefully monitor the battery and control recharging.

Though there have been big improvements in the ways batteries are handled, the storage capacity of batteries has not increased by much — most provide enough power for around three hours' use.

Meanwhile, Apple may revive the lead acid battery. The Mac Portable uses these to give a claimed 10 hours of use. This is due to sophisticated power management, including slowing its micro-processor from 16MHz to 1MHz when it is waiting for a task.

To keep power consumption to the minimum, battery-powered portables rely on a combination of components which use little power and of shutting components down when not in use.

All battery-powered computers are built using chips of the CMOS type, which use under half the power of the chips in most desktop computers. Portables with backlit LCD screens automatically turn the backlighting off if no keys are pressed for a while.

The component which uses most power is the disk drive. Floppy disk drives only use power when they are working, but heavy use of a disk drive dramatically shortens the time a machine can run off batteries.

Many machines are available with hard disks. These are popular because of their fast speed and high capacity, but use more power. Normally hard disks draw power all the time the machine is working, but portable computers shut their hard disks off when the disk is not in use.

Most battery-powered portables use 3½-inch floppy disks, but Zenith

uses 2-inch disk drives on its Minisport. These use less power and take up less space, but no other company has adopted them.

Several companies avoid disk drives altogether in an attempt to produce even more compact machines with long battery life.

The most extreme example of this is the Poqet, an IBM-compatible computer which is small enough to fit in a suit breast pocket. It can match the performance of many desktop computers and yet is claimed to run for 100 hours on two AA-size disposable batteries.

The Poqet uses one-hundredth of the power of some portable computers. One way it does this is by halting the micro-processor between keystrokes and another is by using tiny memory cards instead of disk drives.

Perhaps because of all the high-technology in the Poqet, its release has been delayed and it is still not on sale.

Psion, the only UK company making IBM-compatible portables, also has a diskless machine. This is a more conventional size than the Poqet, but still manages to run for 30 hours on eight AA-size batteries.

Jetsetting about the world is no fun without the right portable

Newspaper and magazine advertisements paint the picture of a busy executive, with portable computer, jetsetting round the world on business then plugging into a bedside telephone to squirt data back to an eagerly waiting staff.

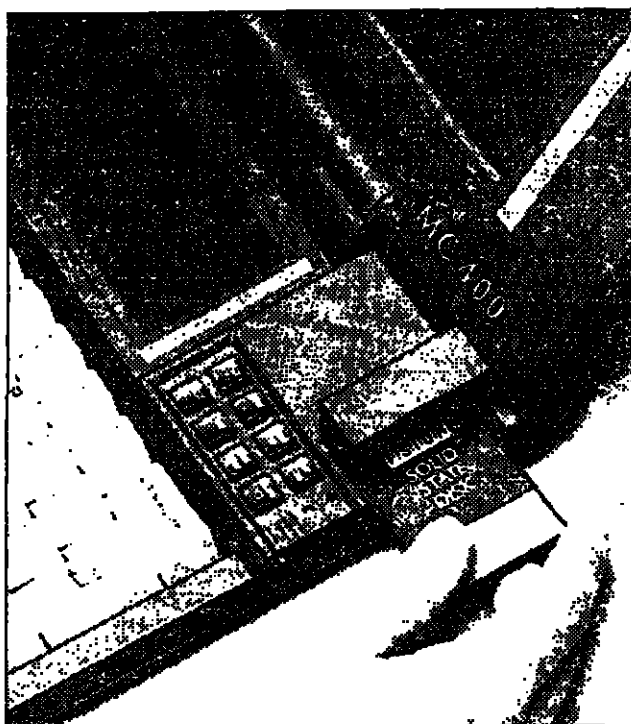
The reality may be quite different, because people buy portable computers without understanding the compromises, such as being out of reach of mains power. Most people who have bought a portable computer, later buy another which better meets their needs. A little thought in advance can make the first purchase the last.

Genuine portable computing, as opposed to humping an office desktop around in a suitcase, began in the early 1980s with the Tandy Model 100 series. Tandy sub-contracted manufacture to Japan, but much of the design work was done in the United States. Tandy clearly employed designers who knew what journalists and business travellers needed. Essential software — for instance, a simple word-processing program and a communications program for sending text by modem down a phone line — was frozen into permanent memory. The keyboard was full-size and solid to the touch, like a typewriter. The screen, a liquid crystal display, showed eight lines of text in jumbo print. This compensated for the fact that there was no battery-powered back light for the screen. And it saved on battery drain. You simply propped the keyboard against a window or lamp and used sunlight.

Text and data entered on the move were stored in solid-state memory, so data had to be transferred by hardware connection.

After the 100, the industry juggled with screen clarity, keyboard size, power consumption and user convenience. If the screen is to be large and bright, the unit will go through batteries rapidly. This is why most bright-screen portables use rechargeable nickel cadmium cells.

Searching for a perfect model



Power savers: Psion's new Flash Eprom solid-state discs

Sir Clive Sinclair was the first to compete seriously with Tandy. His Z88 was a similar size, but lighter, with more memory and a finer-text screen, but less chunky keyboard. Now Atari and DIP have taken the idea a stage further with the Folio Pocket PC. This folds in two to reduce size. The keyboard is, however, even smaller and further removed from a traditional typewriter. Both machines rely on solid-state memory storage to save on size, weight and power.

For many people, the most convenient portables have a built-in floppy disk drive, usually for 3.5-inch disks. Text and data entered on a journey are saved to disk, and the disk then slotted into a desktop PC.

The guiding principle is that some exotic portable computers are offering an over-kill of fancy features which belong on top of a desk, not in hand baggage. When the batteries have gone flat, all PCs are equal — equally useless.

Barry Fox

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Open up the Sharp IQ and you'll discover the most efficient and compact way to organise your personal and business life.

Measuring just 9.4 by 16.5 by 2.0 centimetres, the pocket-sized IQ is big enough to take control of your time and information.

Data can be input into the IQ's 32Kb memory and then clearly displayed on the 8-line, 16 character LCD screen.

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plan by the year, month, week or day. And its built-in alarm gives a timely reminder of your important meetings.

There's also a telephone directory, which is capable of storing over 200 numbers, together with names and full addresses. The IQ's secret function keeps chosen numbers confidential at the touch of a button.

Next is the electronic memo pad which can memorise approxi-

mately twelve typewritten pages and recall the information in a split second.

The IQ's world clock gives the accurate time in 212 cities and there's even a multi-function calculator with a very useful paperless printer.

But what makes the IQ more intelligent than the average electronic organiser is its infinite expandability. You can increase its brainpower in many ways.

Interchangeable IC cards give the IQ an enlarged capability in specialised areas. The IC cards hold combinations of ROM and RAM, and functions built-in can be accessed by a pressure sensitive transparent keypad or the main keyboard.

Should you require a hard copy of any information, a compact thermal printer can be simply plugged in and the data run off.

Though what best demonstrates the IQ's expandability is the option of connecting it to any IBM compatible

PC or Apple Mac. With the PC-link you can transfer memo, schedule and telephone files to and from the computer, and convert any data into Lotus 1-2-3, dBase or Sidekick, compatible file format.

You can also upload your IC cards' data to your PC or download from your PC to additional memory cards. You can even shift information from one IQ to another.

The beauty of the Sharp IQ is that you decide how to use it. With peripherals, or without.

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For further details on the Sharp IQ 7000, complete the coupon and send freepost to: Sharp IQ, PO Box 8, (East PDO-BE), Freepost, Manchester, M10 9BB. Or phone free on: 0800 262 958.

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COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM
January 13: The Queen was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir James Scott, Bt (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Hampshire) at the Memorial Service for the Lord Chesham (formerly Lord in Waiting to the Queen) which was held in Winchester Cathedral, today.

January 14: Divine Service was held at Sandringham Parish Church this morning.

The Bishop of Bath and Wells preached the Sermon.
Mr. M. Pocklington (Headteacher of Sandringham and West Newton V.A. Primary School, King's Lynn) had the honour of being received by the Queen when Her Majesty presented a Bible to Kate Chapman for proficiency in Religious Instruction.

Mr. David Senior was received by the Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the insignia of a Member of the Royal Victorian Order.
Mrs Elizabeth Hanslip was received by the Queen when Her Majesty decorated her with the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver).

The Hon Ramon Hnatyshyn (Governor-General designate of Canada) and Mrs Hnatyshyn have arrived at Sandringham.

Mr and Mrs Hnatyshyn were invested by the Queen with the insignia of Companion of the Order of Canada.
Mrs Hnatyshyn was also invested with the insignia of Commander of the Order of Military Merit.

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 14: The Princess of Wales, Patron, Major-General, attended a performance of *Metastasio* at the Royal Albert Hall, SW7.

Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith and Lieutenant Commander Patrick Jephson, RN, were in attendance.

The Duke and Duchess of York have appointed Miss Lynn Frances White to be Comptroller and Assistant Private Secretary to their Royal Highnesses.

The Duke of York has appointed Captain Alexander Neil Buchanan-Baillie-Hamilton, The Black Watch, to be Equerry to His Royal Highness from March 19.
Prince Michael of Kent celebrates his birthday today.

Birthdays today

Mr Robert Armstrong, racehorse trainer, 46; Mrs Margaret Beckett, MP, 47; Mr Frank Bough, broadcaster, 57; Professor R.B. Brunt, philosopher, 90; Dr Neil Cosson, director, Science Museum, 51; Lord Dacre of Glanton, 76; Baroness Elliot of Harwood, 87; Mr Anthony Forbes, joint senior partner, Cazenove and Company, 52; Professor Forrester, 83; Professor P.C.C. Garnham, parasitologist, 89; Sir Peter Garra, diplomat, 80; Sir Percival Griffiths, Indian civil servant, 91; Sir John Junior, journalist, 71; Lord Leveson of Manchester, 76; Lord Simon of Glaisdale, 79; Mr T.C. Skeffington-Lodge, former MP, 85; Mr John Terraine, author, 69; Sir John Wordie, barrister, 66.

University Pitt Club

The UPC plans to hold a dinner on Monday, March 5, at the Merchant Taylors' Hall. Members past and present are encouraged to attend. Please contact the Honorary Secretary, University Pitt Club, Jesus Lane, Cambridge, CB2 3BA. All old members are also asked to contact the club to update the records.

Christening

The infant daughter of Major and Mrs Alexander Matheson was christened Louisa Alexandra Matilda by the Rev Adam Smith, on Sunday, January 7, 1990. The godparents are Major Edward Bolitho, Mr John Gorman, GM, Mrs Mark Lines and Miss Mary-Anne Wilson.

John Witheridge

National church seduced by secular fads and fashions

Changes in the Church of England during the past three decades have been various and radical. For many, young and old, the church has become uninviting, even hostile.

Rigorous baptismal and marital policies, for instance, have often excluded the people of the parish from the church's offices. So too, in many places, has the dominance of the Parish Communion and the Alternative Service Book. The Church of England's professed "bias to the poor" implies a prejudice against the better off, and the prophecy of some of the church's spokesmen amounts to little more than a dated socialism, thinly disguised.

Such changes as these have two things in common. First, they mark the dissolution of a national, established church, and its replacement by a narrow and exclusive sect or denomination. Second, they have come about without the support or inspiration of any coherent theology. Indeed, it is its lack of Christian theology which has allowed the church to be seduced in recent years by so many secular fads and fashions.

Traditional Anglicanism, by contrast, is not short of positive intellectual and spiritual support. One valuable source is to be found in the writings of Frederick Denison Maurice (1805-72).

Maurice is perhaps the most representative and certainly among the most original and influential Anglican theologians of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and his neglect in recent years is not without significance. "Today," writes Bernard Reardon, "the essence of the Maurician doctrine needs to be distilled. But orthodox religion, and Anglicanism in particular, has in modern times seldom been served by a body of ideas so consistently recognizable as the utterance of a mind profoundly Christian in all its convictions."

Maurice's theology is grounded in the central and fundamental Christian truth that God the Father has both created and redeemed all humankind in Christ. Men and women are created in God's likeness, and this fact about us is disclosed in the incarnate Christ, the eternal Son of God, who is himself the true image of the Father.

Christ is the Head of every man, woman and child. "The Gospel," wrote

Maurice, "is the full discovery of Him who is the Living Centre of the Universe, the assertion that all men are related to Him; the destruction of every wall of partition between man and man; the admission of all who desire it into fellowship with the Father of the whole family in Heaven and Earth."

Furthermore, Christ is "the root of all life and society", and this means that each human occupation, whether "grand or petty, sacred or secular in the vocabulary of men is a holy calling in the sight of God". Religion as "a kind of specialized department of culture, interests, and behaviour" was repugnant to Maurice. "God," he affirmed, "is to be sought and honoured in every pursuit and not merely in something called religion."

Maurice did not regard the church as the preserve of the religious. Instead, "the church is the witness for the true constitution of man as man, a child of God, an heir of heaven."

"He viewed the church," explained Michael Ramsey, "not only as the home of the redeemed, but as the sign that God has redeemed the whole human race and that the whole human race was potentially in Christ."

For Maurice, the church is the great witness to the unity of mankind in Christ. It is above all an inclusive and comprehensive body, and here Maurice took his own determined stand against the many sects and parties of his time.

"The baptized church is not set apart as a witness for exclusion, but against it. The denial of Christ as the root of all life and society — this is the exclusive sectarian principle."

But the universal church is not the only testimony to these truths. "The state," Maurice declared, "is as much God's creation as the church." England had as much right to call itself a holy nation as Israel. "I believe it is holy in virtue of God's calling: that the members are unholy when they deny their calling and their unity."

The idea of a national, established church is axiomatic to Maurice. "A national church should mean a church which exists to purify and elevate the mind of a nation; to give those who make and administer and obey its laws, a sense of grandeur of law and of the source

whence it proceeds, to tell the rulers of the nation, and all the members of the nation, that all false ways are ruinous ways, that truth is the only stability of our time or of any time."

Maurice set out in the third and final part of *The Kingdom of Christ* to demonstrate that "our national church is the best in the world."

Maurice's language is visionary and idealistic, certainly. His theology needs earthing, distilling and translating. But the revival of its heart and spirit would do much to check the drift towards sectarianism and, more important, to encourage the Church of England to recover both her theological *raison d'être*, and with it her sense of mission to the nation, whether at the level of parish or Parliament.

"A national church," wrote Alec Vidler in *Soundings*, "a church built into the constitution as a complement and counterpoise to the state and civil government, is a standing witness for the fact that man, every man, is a twofold creature with a twofold allegiance, whether he realizes it or not. A man is not only a political creature but also a spiritual being who belongs to a realm of eternal values which lifts him above all the realms of this world even while he is immersed in them. A national church, recognized by the state, is a constant, public and impressive reminder of this fact."

These words were written nearly 30 years ago. They are still relevant, for we still have at least the framework of an established church. But we are by no means as clearly distinguishable from a sect as we were when *Soundings* was first published.

If Maurice were living at this hour I am confident that he would have to confess again, and with greater conviction than before, "that the English Church is in a very corrupt condition. I am not afraid to own that, because I believe it is a church and not a sect. The sect feeling, the sect habit is undermining it. The business of us who belong to it is to repent of our sectarianism and to call our brothers to repent, to show that we have a ground on which all may stand with us."

The Rev John Witheridge is Conduct of Eton College.

OBITUARIES

SIR ANTONY PART

Moulding policy in the Whitehall machine

Sir Antony Part, CGB, MBE, died on January 11, after a distinguished career as a civil servant in official charge successively of four major Departments of State. He was 73.

Born on June 28, 1916, he was educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he read modern languages, and joined the Board of Education in 1937. Called for war service in 1939 as a Rifleman in the Royal Ulster Rifles, he was demobilized as a 28-year-old Lieutenant-Colonel in 21st Army Group, and returned to the post-1944 Education Act Ministry of Education.

After serving as private secretary successively to R.A. Butler, Richard Law and Ellen Wilkinson he made his first mark as an administrator jointly in charge (itself a Whitehall innovation) with Sir John Johnson-Marshall, Chief Architect, of the Architects and Buildings Branch of the Ministry.

Within three years he had organized a network of Regional Priority Officers (mainly ex-army officers); created the necessary supply line of steel, cement, timber etc (all still under war-time rationing); launched programmes of building starts for primary and secondary schools; and played a leading role in the foundation of public sector capital investment in terms of scale, quality and value for money. It was a remarkable achievement.

Made Under Secretary in 1954, he was for most of the 1950s largely responsible with David Eccles for reshaping the sprawling territory of further education into rationalized tiers at local, regional and national level. The designation, College of Advanced Technology and the establishment of the National Council for Technological Awards marked the entry of further education into the field of advanced education and raised the issue of the relation-



ship between the autonomous university and the maintained local authority sectors of higher education.

In 1963 began a series of important inter-departmental moves. After transferring in that year to the Ministry of Public Building and Works he served his first stint as a Permanent Secretary to that Department from 1965 to 1968. For two years he then headed the Board of Trade.

In 1970, with the incoming Heath government, he took his third Permanent Secretaryship within the merged Department of Trade and Industry. In 1974, again with the change in government and in the machinery of government, he became official head of the Department of Industry (divorced from Trade), his fourth top appointment.

In the 11 years during which Part was handling the Whitehall machine he always played a significant role in policy formation. He regarded his principal areas of interest in the economic field as international tariff regulations, especially the Kennedy Round of the early 1960s, the EEC entry negotiations of the early 1970s and the shaping of industrial strategy under Labour Ministers in the mid-1970s.

Inevitably, however, his

pre-occupation as a Permanent Secretary was with the organization and management of his various departments. He was equally gifted here, creative and open-minded but always realistic and critical. He was chary of the size and remoteness of senior management within the mammoth merged departments fashionable in the late 1960s and early 1970s. "I don't like reading in the *Evening Standard* like everybody else about what my department has done — or not done," he was heard to say. "A Permanent Secretary can't personally know all the 200 Assistant Secretaries in these monsters from whom to choose his 40 Under Secretaries."

He bothered greatly about the twin problems of public efficiency (making the government machine work smoothly, fairly and effectively) and private justice (ensuring that no one was overlooked in the promotion race, devalued by less able reporting officers or bullied by intemperate Ministers).

Part was not wholly cast in the orthodox mould of the Whitehall mandarin. The hallmarks were all there — high intelligence, mature judgement, political neutrality and absolute and equal loyalty to Ministers and colleagues even in difficult times. But he was more stylish, more overtly ambitious, more ready to show his face, his mind and his wit in public than the stereotype normally allows. His contribution, consequently, to the good of the civil service, of public administration and of civilized government was more distinctive.

Following his retirement from Whitehall his experience and wise counsel were widely sought by the business world. He was a Director of several companies and Chairman of Orion Insurance Company.

His wife, Ella, whom he married in 1940, survives him. There were no children.

ERNEST KERANS

War-time chronicler of unrest in the 8th Army

Ernest Kerans who has died at the age of 71 in Accrington, Lancashire, was a war diarist whose recollections of the campaigns of the 8th Army in North Africa and Italy might well have remained unknown, had extracts from them not been published in *"My God, Soldiers"* by Patrick Howarth, which appeared last year. He was personally involved in what has become known as the "Salerno Mutiny" in the 8th Army in 1943, which resulted in disciplinary action being taken against nearly 200 soldiers.

In the book, which follows the fortunes of the 8th Army from the desert war to the Alps, Kerans, who served in the ranks throughout, emerges as an observer of perception, rather in the tradition of the private soldier diarists of the First World War.

Kerans was born on February 2, 1918, at Haslingden, Lancashire where he went to the local school. Before the war he worked in a cotton mill. He served first in the South Lancashire Regiment and later transferred to the Durham Light Infantry.

Kerans kept careful diaries of his experiences. Of Alamein he wrote: "I sat on the sand on the top and got sizzling sausages and bacon going (bought at the South African mobile canteen). Ignoring the scores of dead bodies, with the flies heaped up on their eyes and wounds, pretending they were just part of the scenery. If I'd but thought, with feeling, I wouldn't have wanted my breakfast. Then four shells exploding within an area of 25 square yards did no harm to me but scattered our breakfast in a shower of sand. Picked up the bacon and sausage, covered with sand and dived back with it into our trench. Even as I collected the sandy breakfast a huge, two foot long shell landed within a yard of me without exploding, adding force to my legs taking me to our trench."

Later he wrote: "The MO, an American, Captain Stone, did wonders for the wounded in a hastily dug dug-out. Unheeding the flying shrapnel, aided by Bill Ryde from Gateshead, his Sergeant, they tended the many wounded. When it was suggested he take more cover he just smiled and said: 'When is this damned war going to start anyway?' He was at work when he was killed by a shell."

Kerans later describes how after being violently seasick he was landed in Sicily and toiled through the heat. One evening he and a mate went looking for water and found a barn inches deep in red wine. They were

then startled on being confronted by a drunken goat. Among incidents chronicled by Kerans was the mutiny in the ranks of the 8th Army in Italy in 1943. His account in *"My God, Soldiers"* ascribes the discontent to deep disappointment at the fact that old comrades were to be parted, as he put it "from the community to which they belonged", some to continue with the 8th Army in Italy, others to be brought home to prepare for the Second Front. In all 198 NCOs and men refused to obey orders. The mutineers had sentences of penal servitude, ranging from two to five years passed on them, but, wisely, these were suspended, and the affair was hushed up.

Kerans, who was among the malcontents, was himself transferred to the Northants Regiment, and thereafter served with great devotion to duty in Italy, being commended by his superiors on more than one occasion.

After the war he worked as a signaller for British Rail. It was a source of great pride and pleasure to him that parts of his diaries finally appeared in print some two months before he died.

He is survived by his widow, Vera, and their one son.

LYLE WHEELER

Film set design in Hollywood's heyday

Lyle Wheeler, a leading Hollywood's art director, died on January 10 aged 84.

In a career stretching from the 1930s to the 1970s he worked on some 400 films and won four Oscars, including one for *Gone With the Wind*. The others were for *Anna and the King of Siam*, *The Robe* and *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

He was nominated for the Academy Award on 24 other occasions. The first nomination was for the 1937 film, *The Prisoner of Zenda*, and the last for *The Cardinal* in 1963.

As art director, Wheeler was responsible for the design of studio sets and properties, as well as outdoor settings, and made a substantial contribution to the style and visual impact of a film.

His work embraced musicals and costume pictures, which were shot mainly in the studio and often relied on

elaborate decor, as well as films aiming for authenticity by using real locations. Wheeler was born in Woburn, Massachusetts, on February 2, 1905, and attended the University of Southern California School of Architecture. He was a magazine illustrator and industrial designer before entering films.

One of his first assignments was *The Garden of Allah*, an early experiment in Technicolor with Marlene Dietrich and Charles Boyer. He was appointed supervising art director at 20th Century-Fox in 1944 and head of the art department three years later.

His name appeared on dozens of films that became classics. In the early 1940s these included Alfred Hitchcock's *Rebecca*, Otto Preminger's *Laura* and John Ford's *My Darling Clementine*.

the lessons and Viscount Dithorne gave an address. Major-General Anthony Tighe A memorial service for Major-General Anthony Tighe was held yesterday in the Chapel of Christ's Hospital, Horsham. The Rev Gary Dobie officiated and the Rev Norman Lempriere said the prayers. Major-General J.M.W. Badcock, Master of Signals, and Major-General C.W.B. Purdon read the lessons. Mr Stewart Tighe, son, read /f by Rudyard Kipling and *Drum* crania. Brigadier J.C. Chinch gave an address. Colonel A.H. Southwood read *The Collect of the Intelligence Corps* and Brigadier A.L. Dowell *The Collect of the Royal Corps of Signals*.

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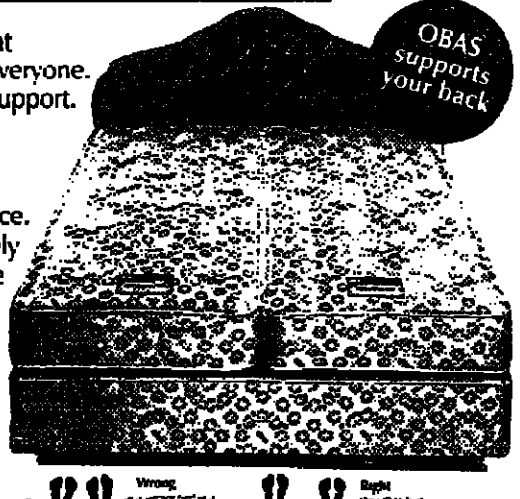
Today's royal engagement
The Princess Royal, as Patron of the College of Occupational Therapists, will speak at a seminar at the London Hospital at 2.30; and attend a dinner at the RAC at 7.45.

BACK PAIN? HERE'S YOUR ANSWER!

Years of experience tell us that standard beds may not be right for everyone. One partner may receive excellent support. The other aches and pains.

WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

A Bed from OBAS, the Orthopaedic Bedding Advisory Service. A double bed with two entirely different types of spring to suit the exact needs of each partner. Matching individual body contours. Easing them gently into the right positions. Keeping the spine relaxed and flexible. Helping lift the pressure off bones, muscles, tendons, nerve endings and joints.



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Our surgical orthopaedic technicians and professionally qualified consultants have designed thousands of single and double OBAS beds on the weight, shape and medical history of individual customers. If you have a back problem contact OBAS NOW! For your colour brochure return coupon (no stamp required) to: OBAS, Dept TMS-1, FREEPOST, OBAS House, London E3 4BR. Now available in Northern Ireland and Eire.

TO: OBAS, Dept TMS-1, FREEPOST, OBAS House, London E3 4BR
(An interest-free loan is available for the purchase of OBAS beds. Medical beds are available on hire purchase.)
Name: _____ Address: _____
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OBAS ORTHOPAEDIC AND MEDIBEDS

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Nature notes

In the evening linnets gather in the hedges and sing a desultory song of trills and twanging notes: they like to face the setting sun.

Blackcaps come into gardens to feed on bird tables: these are now known to be winter visitors from Northern Europe, not the birds which nested here in the summer and are now all scattered round the Mediterranean. The males have neat black skulls, the females, brown ones.

A few Cat's warblers are found in southern England both in summer and winter: one was reported in the Lee Valley, near Hertford, last week. They are skulking, rufous-brown birds, commonest in Spain and Italy, and most often detected by their ringing song, which is heard all the year round.

Kestrels usually hover to



look for prey, but they also sweep across the fields on their long chestnut wings, alternating rapid wing-beats and short glides.

The low sun brings out the pinks and reds in tree trunks and in dead vegetation, casting a crimson glow over the land. More silver catkins are appearing close to the twigs of willow bushes, while hazel catkins are already swinging loose and yellow. The leaves of lesser celandine, like small curling harps, are coming up fast.

DJM

Memorial services

Lord Chesham The Duke was represented by the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire at a service of thanksgiving and celebration for the life of Lord Chesham held on Saturday in Winchester Cathedral. Prince Michael of Kent, President of the Royal Automobile Club, was represented by Mr Jeffrey Rose, chairman.

The Dean of Winchester officiated, assisted by the Rev C.R. Smith and the Rev Julian Harford. Lord Chesham and the Hon John Cavendish, sons, read

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TELEVISION & RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Gillian MaxeyA walk
on the
wild side

Peter Waymark

At the Lake District fell walker Alfred Wainwright, who became an unlikely television personality at an age when most people tend to put their feet up, returns to the screen for Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk (BBC2, 7.40pm). With Eric Robson as companion and periodic prompt, Wainwright dons his anorak and flat hat and legs it the 190 miles across England from St Bees Head in Cumbria to Robin Hood's Bay in North Yorkshire. The route follows the long distance footpath created by Wainwright himself and meticulously recorded in one of his beautifully handwritten guides. The walk was



Alfred Wainwright: at St Bees Head, the start of his walk (BBC2, 7.40pm)

designed to take a fortnight and thus fit neatly into a family holiday. For the purposes of television (and possibly to ease the strain on Wainwright's 82-year-old legs) the two weeks have been stretched to four. One of the more laconic of men, Wainwright never uses two words when one will do. Indeed he says so little that the programme has to be filled out with readings from his guidebook. And yet the enthusiasm comes across. As far as Wainwright is concerned, the remoter the terrain the better. He cannot stand traffic or crowds or litter. All the same, arriving at the Black Sail youth hostel on the top of Embsay, the "loneliest and most romantic spot in the Lake District" and the place where he would like to be buried — he is disappointed to learn that they cannot pick up *Coronation Street*.

Anyone tuning in to Medicine 2000 (BBC2, 8.10pm) expecting to learn about forthcoming miracle cures for cancer, AIDS, multiple sclerosis and other diseases will quickly learn that it is not that sort of programme. Instead we have a sober and tentative survey of some of the likely advances in medicine over the next decade, together with an analysis of the financial and moral choices that will inevitably follow. Essentially it is a projection forward from what is already happening — in areas such as brain scans, implants, keyhole surgery and the use of diagnostic computers by general practitioners. Ironically, one of medicine's greatest challenges will stem largely from its past success. By the year 2000 the number of people in Britain over 80 will have increased by half. The task will be to ensure that the quality of life is not sacrificed for longevity.

BBC1

6.00 *Casualty*.
6.30 *BBC Breakfast News* with Nicholas Witchell and Kirsty Wark. Regular news headlines, business and financial reports, sports bulletins, regional news, weather and travel reports and a look at the morning papers with Paul Cullen.
8.55 Regional news and weather.
9.00 News and weather followed by Open Air. Viewers comment on the weekend's television programmes.

9.30 *Kidz*. Robert Kirby-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject.
10.00 News and weather followed by *The Flintstone Comedy Show*.

10.25 *Children's BBC*, presented by Simon Parkin, begins with Playdays (r) 10.55 Five to Eleven. Douglas Hodge with a reading.
11.00 News and weather followed by Open Air. Gloria Hunniford, Jayne Irving and Eamonn Holmes follow up viewers' comments on the BBC's new police drama series.

12.00 News and weather followed by Daytime Live. Magazine series presented by Sue Cook and Andy Craig. 12.55 Regional news and weather.

1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather.
1.30 *Neighbours*. Scott's plan to unite Henry and Brown with little Harry. (Ceefax) 1.50 *Going to the Sun*. The wheelchair-bound detective is on hand when Ed Brown's reunion with a high-school sweetheart suddenly turns sour.

2.15 *Knots Landing*. The Class of '57. The wheelchair-bound detective is on hand when Ed Brown's reunion with a high-school sweetheart suddenly turns sour.

3.50 *Dooby Duck's Disco* with Terry Wogan (r) 4.15 *SuperTed* and 4.30 *Jackanory*. Nick Wilton with part one of Dick King-Smith's *Martin's Mice* 4.35 *BraveStarr*.

5.00 *Newsround* 5.05 *Star Peter* with John Leslie. Yvette Fielding and Caron Keating. (Ceefax)
5.35 *Neighbours* (r). (Ceefax)
6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Peter Siddons and Jill Dando. Weather.

6.30 *Newsnight* 6.55 *Jackanory*.
7.00 *Wogan* with Anthony Burgess. Janet Street-Porter and Ruby Wax. Jimmy Smagorinsky provides the music.

7.35 *Major Dad*. Polly arranges for Mac to meet the rest of her democratic household, her three daughters, whom she feels she must consult before she accepts Mac's proposal for marriage. Starring Gerald McPhee and Sharon Stone.

8.00 *Blindfold*. Lee Dawson is joined this week by Joe Brown, Bernie Clifton, Jan Kravitz, Janette Kravitz, Janice Long and Anthea Turner. (Ceefax)
8.30 *Survivors*. Eagle Star. Once in danger of extinction the bald eagle is still a rare sight. Its habitat is along the cliffs of the Verde River, near Phoenix, in Arizona's scorching desert, where they feed mainly on river fish. The film captures an eagle hatching and follows the young chick as it learns to fly and feed itself until it migrates across the Grand Canyon to Oregon, where it learns to hunt in the snow. (Ceefax)

9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Martyn Lewis. Regional news and weather.
9.30 *Panorama*. Suffering for a Solution. A comprehensive examination of how patients have suffered as a result of the ambulance dispute. The programme includes an interview with Kenneth Clarke about Saturday's rally of support for the ambulance drivers.

10.10 *Miami Vice*. A psychopathic killer is on the loose following the discovery of four victims, all murdered by lethal cocaine injections. Starring James Van Der Beek, Wilcox and Robert Kirby-Silk are the hosts for this celebrity gala-dinner commemorating Birmingham's centenary, from the City's Council House.

11.25 *Advice Shop*. A special report from Northern Ireland (r)
11.55 *Weather*.

BBC2

6.00 TV-am begins with News and Good Morning Britain presented by Linda Michael. From 7.00, by Richard Keys and Lorraine Kelly. Includes news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00. After Nine is introduced by Kathy Taylor.

9.25 *Lucky Ladders*. Word association game show 9.55 *Thames News* and weather.

10.00 *The Time... The Place...* A special edition hosted by Mike Scott. The programme goes to the Soviet Union, where an English family spends a week with a Russian family in Moscow. On Friday, the Russian family pays an exchange visit.

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BBC2

6.00 News 6.15 Westminster 6.30 *Casualty*.
9.00 *Daytime on Two*: computers and civil rights 9.30 *Beginnings*. Spanish 9.40 *Health* and sport 10.00 *For the young* 10.15 *18 Mile* time 10.40 *Working in a dental* 11.00 *The siege of Troy* 11.30 *Design and technology* 11.40 *Putting on a musical* 12.00 *Schools for the young* 12.15 *British social history* 12.35 *School-leaving choices* 1.00 *Photographic paper* 1.20 *Postman* 1.40 *Tropical rainforests*

2.00 News followed by a learning to read series.
2.15 *State of the Nation* from Lincoln Cathedral (r). (Ceefax) 2.30 *Behind the Screen*. A look at *Neighbours*.

3.00 News and weather followed by *The Yellow River*. A six-part series about China's great waterway (r)
3.30 *Through the Eyes of a Child*. A series of short stories for children, north Devon (r) 3.55 *News* and weather

4.00 *Catchword*.
4.30 *Behind the Headlines*. Jeremy Paxman discusses foreign aid and the role of the BBC's *News at One* (1983, by).

5.30 *Film: Ride Lonesome* (1959). Starring Randolph Scott and Lee Van Cleef. An ex-convict turned bounty hunter battles a notorious gunman. Directed by Burt Beasley.

6.40 *DEF* begins with *Smash TV*. Music show featuring Jesus and Mary Chain, Ancient Beat, Ride and The Jesus and Mary Chain. (Ceefax) 7.10 *A-Z of the Bible*. Shabazz talks about the influence of Islam on his music.

7.40 *Wainwright Begins Another Journey* (see Choice)
10.00 *Horror House* 2000 (Ceefax) (see Choice)

10.30 *Film: True Stories* (1986). Starring David Byrne. Set in the mythical Texan town of Virgil, the film is based on Byrne's narrative of human interrelationships picked up from the tabloid press. Directed by David Byrne.

10.30 *Newsnight*.
11.10 *The Late Show*. Jeremy Isaacs interviews Oliver Sachs, neurologist and author of *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* 11.55 *Weather*

12.00 *Behind the Headlines*. See 4.30. Ends at 12.35am (r)

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CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Channel Four Daily 6.30 *Schools*.
12.00 *Streetwise* (r).
12.30 *Business Daily*.
1.00 *Seaside Street*.
2.00 *IT for the Terrified*. Series exploring information technology in the home and at work (r). (Oracle)

2.30 *Film: Svengali* (1954). Starring Donald Wolfelt and Hildegarde Neff. Set in Paris in the 1890s, an art student falls in love with his model and helps her find fortune as a great opera singer, but is brokenhearted when she doesn't return his affections. Directed by Noel Langley.

4.00 *A Doctor from Kurgan*. A Soviet documentary profiling the work of a doctor working in a Ural mountain city.

4.30 *Countdown*.
5.00 *The Late Late Show*. Ireland's chat show hosted by Gay Byrne.
6.00 *Singing for Dear Life*. A history of East End life between 1880 and 1914, collected together from old television, people's songs, stories and reminiscences. (Oracle)

6.30 *Happy Days*. American high school comedy.
7.00 *Channel Four News*.
8.00 *Brookside*. Frank decides it's time to thank about his future (Oracle).
8.30 *Relative Strangers*. Last in the comedy series starring Matthew Kelly and Marie Fyfe.

9.00 *Good Evening, Comrades*. The first of a series of films, shown as part of the Soviet Spring season, which delves behind the previously closed doors of Soviet television, looking at the way it has changed over the years as well as the kind of programmes that are currently available to the Soviet people. Presented by Svetlana Kurikina.

10.00 *St Elsewhere*. Black comedy series about the staff and patients of a run-down Boston teaching hospital.

11.00 *4 Minutes*. Head Girl. Continuing the series of four-minute dramas.

11.05 *Law of the Jungle*. How coca planting has become a major source of income for Colombia's 25,000 illegal settlers.

12.00 *Film: A Journey Down the River Thames* that reveals its past and its present (r). Ends at 1.40.

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Ministers in all-out effort to limit poll tax rebellion

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

The Government is taking "very seriously" the backbench Conservative revolt over the community charge threatened for Thursday, Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday.

Over the next few days, a final effort will be made by ministers and whips to limit the size of the revolt, which insiders are predicting could involve up to 50 Tory MPs.

According to one estimate, up to 20 MPs could vote against the Government in the debate on the revenue support grant orders, with another 30 abstaining. Such a revolt would cut the Government's majority of 100 to around the 25 recorded in the vote in April, 1988, on an amendment seeking to relate the flat-rate charge to ability to pay.

Some senior Tories who have opposed the measure from the outset went even further, with Sir Barney Hayhoe, a former minister, saying that backbench opposition was growing and with Mr Jim Lester, MP for Broxtowe, warning that the Government could be run very close.

Mr Lester said: "The Government faces possibly the closest vote it has had this Parliament because of this combination of opposition to the safety net and individual council allocations coupled with the original opponents of the whole principle of the community charge."

Yesterday, Mr Patten acknowledged the scale of Tory opposition, which has

stiffened since his decision last week not to increase central Government grant allocations to more than 400 English local authorities.

"There are quite a few Conservative MPs who have said that they don't think they can support us. I have to take that very seriously. I have been meeting a lot of Conservative MPs and councillors and so has my colleague David Hunt," he said in a TV-am interview.

Whips have already told Tory MPs to cancel overseas trips and Mr Hunt, the Minister for Local Government, has written to them all setting out the Government's case.

The problem for ministers is that Thatcherite loyalists are combining with some of their long-standing backbench critics to swell a rebellion that embraces left and right of the parliamentary party.

Sir Rhodes Boyson, the former environment minister, who has spearheaded the backbench campaign for a much bigger Treasury subsidy to cushion the introduction of the tax, said that even if they lost on Thursday, it would not be the end of the matter.

He predicted that pressure would grow inexorably for a national community charge, set in Whitehall like the uniform business rate and safe from the depredations of Labour councillors seeking to push up spending.

He also called on the Government to set up an independent commission to review the introduction of the community charge.

Soviet civil war fear as 30 die in Baku



Moscow protest: Armenians carrying posters protesting at the killings by Azerbaijanis in Baku, marching along Moscow's central ring road yesterday.

Continued from page 1

booming Armenia. The meeting heard from its organizers, the People's Front, that Armenia had used unmarked helicopters to shoot villagers in the Azerbaijani districts of Shaumian and Khanlar, where up to 30 villagers had died the previous day.

The crowd was also told that the same helicopters had been used to supply Armenian villages in the same two districts with arms for many weeks.

According to Tass, yet another claim was that "an axe-wielding family of Armenians" in the city had killed an Azerbaijani and wounded another. The killing apparently took

place as a group of Azerbaijanis tried to evict the family from their home.

A Radio Moscow correspondent reported that calls were made at the rally to drive the Armenians out of the city.

"Among the crowd, anti-Armenian slogans were shouted, and then the most terrible thing of all began — the pogroms," said the correspondent.

Detachments of the crowd broke away and attacked the former Armenian ghetto of Pravda, killing at least 30 Armenians and wounding another 26.

Independent witnesses spoke of "the most horrible acts of murder"

among the population and the most across hapless Armenians. Two women, with torn clothes and blood-spattered bodies, were seen being thrown from the balconies of tower blocks, and one woman was seen being lynched on the ground. Some reports spoke of Azerbaijani families protecting their Armenian neighbours by hiding them in their houses.

A recent visitor to Baku said that the killings most probably would have been carried out by Azerbaijani refugees from Karabakh or Armenia. "These have themselves been the victims of the conflict and harbour bitter memories. They are the poorest

among the population and the most extreme." There were signs that the leaders of the People's Front, a loose coalition of nationalist and Islamic groups, was embarrassed by the violence. Mr Ali-Agha Siahbaf, the head of its information office, said it condemned the killings, though it believed the blame could be put on Moscow for encouraging Armenian claims to Nagorno-Karabakh.

The only Moscow daily to report yesterday's fighting, the Soviet Army's *Krasnaya Zvezda* (Red Star), said armed groups had sprung up and were using helicopters with the identifying marks erased.

Major considers Budget tax rises

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Tax increases were considered by Treasury ministers and their advisers during a week-end meeting at Chevening, Kent, to discuss the Budget strategy.

Previous gatherings at the country house have sometimes lasted two nights but this meeting, the first chaired by Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, finished by Saturday lunchtime after a Friday morning start.

The swifter timetable suggests that the Chancellor is not yet in a position to make definitive Budget judgements, but that he is waiting for clearer information on whether or not the economy is slowing down. The brevity of the meeting also suggests that structural changes in the tax system are unlikely.

It is understood that Treasury hardliners urged the Chancellor to tighten monetary or fiscal policy by pointing to money supply figures still above the target range, a sliding exchange rate and retail sales figures still showing signs of life.

They could also argue that company pay offers in excess of 10 per cent, such as Ford's, indicate that the present austerity drive is having little effect on profits.

Other advisers, however, thought the present squeeze, with interest rates at 15 per cent, was severe enough.

It is thought likely that the Chancellor will have favoured a modest tightening of policy. If further measures are considered necessary to slow the economy, Mr Major is more likely to want tax increases than further interest rate rises.

One argument for tax increases is that the Budget surplus for this year and next year may not be as large as the Treasury forecast during the last Budget. Such an approach might make it possible to bring down interest rates in the summer.

However, Mr Major will also have had to consider a "short, sharp shock" which would achieve the long-term political prize of bringing inflation down rapidly, while imposing the short-term penalty of electoral unpopularity.

The Chancellor is already committed to a tax giveaway of around £1 billion through the introduction of separate taxation of husbands and wives. This will raise taxes on him to raise taxes.

Other measures he is likely to take include raising the tax on company cars by more than the rate of inflation and widening the base of VAT.

After last year's freeze on excise duties, it would be surprising if they were not increased this year in line with inflation.

Ulster 'shoot-to-kill' policy is denied

Continued from page 1
Northern Ireland Secretary. Yesterday, the families of the dead men claimed the soldiers had been guilty of "cold-blooded murder". The sister of McNeill, Mrs Harriet Larkin, said her brother was shot first while in the getaway car before his two accomplices were gunned down.

In an attempt to clarify the shootings, a military source provided a full account of the incident. He said two soldiers, who were on duty but in plain clothes, were travelling up the Falls Road when they spotted a car outside a betting office.

They saw two men wearing balaclavas, one of whom appeared to be carrying a gun, get out and run across the road into the betting office. The soldiers assumed they had stumbled across an IRA unit



Hale: "Punished by IRA for anti-social behaviour".

in action. One headed towards the betting shop, the other to a waiting getaway car. The man in the car was shot first, then the two others were killed outside the betting office when they ran out after hearing



McNeill: Had 28 convictions dating from 1968.

shots. The source said the man in the car had been killed because he made "a suspicious move as though he was going to produce something". The two others were killed because the soldiers believed they were

armed and would kill them if they did not open fire.

Mr Richard McAuley, a spokesman for Sinn Fein, said he believed there was no doubt the shootings were planned but had been based on inaccurate intelligence.

Sinn Fein said the dead men were part of an extended gang of petty criminals. McNeill had 28 convictions; Thompson had a career in joyriding and petty theft; Hale had been shot in the elbows, knees and ankles by an IRA "punishment squad" two years ago for "anti-social behaviour".

Two men arrested after a shoot-out and bank siege in Athy, Co Kildare, in which one of the gang was shot dead, were remanded in custody when they appeared at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin yesterday.

New threat to boat people

Continued from page 1
does throw light on the reason why (Hong Kong) people are unable to understand that the world finds it amazing that (Vietnamese) people are to be repatriated, because it is so much part of life (here), he said later.

The threat to toughen British policy reflects British and Hong Kong government fears that not enough has been done to deter a further big exodus of Vietnamese villagers from leaving next month.

The two governments wanted to send a second flight to Hanoi, but have apparently been persuaded by Washington to wait. The source said Washington seemed to be close to accepting compulsory repatriation, subject to conditions on timing.

All the nations involved

were to have held a meeting of officials in Geneva on Thursday, but it was postponed because of the US moves. The source said the British

Mr Norman Tebbit yesterday vowed to "fight his corner" in his campaign against the Government's plan to give full British passports to 225,000 Hong Kong people. The former Tory chairman pointed to the party's commitment to exercise tighter control over immigration as the main reason for his stand. A survey of 130 Conservative backbenchers showed that 69 supported the Government's policy.

Government had agreed to a delay "for a few days", but still hoped it would be held quickly. He strongly implied that Britain would wait for the

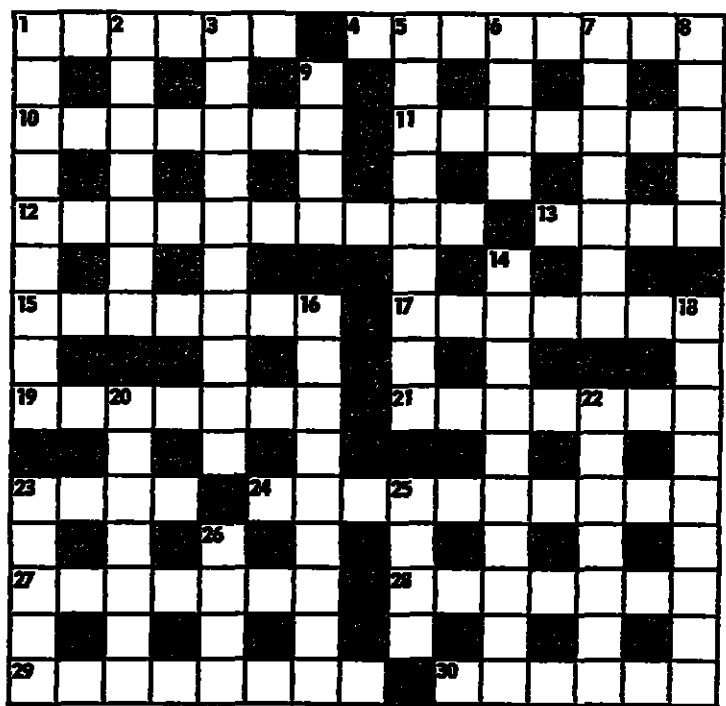
meeting before sending an offer of flight. However, if Washington did not complete its proposals before Mr Hurd went to Washington on January 28, it would become "a big item" in his talks with Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State.

Mr Baker has been a strong opponent of the British policy, and it has taken London seven months to get him to consider even a partial softening.

This would be thrown into question if Britain attempted to streamline the screening process, which separates economic migrants from those legally entitled to asylum. Less than 10 per cent of those screened so far have passed the test.

The Government is likely to face further criticism by Amnesty International this week.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,191



- ACROSS**
- Being angelic, keep quiet about cut-back (6).
 - Stage craft on the home front (8).
 - Respecting a representative employed by chemists (7).
 - Go to pieces when threats are made (7).
 - All out, even if not very well (10).
 - See small church and large stretch of water North of the Border (4).
 - Opposed mistreatment of the soil (7).
 - The person raising a point with the minister (7).
 - Detail soldiers to accompany foreign nobility (7).
 - Sports guns used after the end of August (7).
 - Waste wood (4).
- DOWN**
- Litter stuck in the wall (9).
 - Works out right — no capsizing in rough seas (7).
 - Highly esteemed holding company that's far ahead of others (10).
 - Broke a sign, perhaps — and audacious about it (9).
 - A mother can be the making of a man (4).
 - Letters dispatched in settlement (7).
 - A listening device, this is dropped in a fox-hole (5).
 - A large animal, yet among the most agile (4).
 - The reason for getting lost? (10).
 - He's antagonised Oriental holy man and guide (9).
 - Dirge scene created in the home (9).
 - Song — "Many an Adieu" (7).
 - A story about bovine creatures being ruled (7).
 - Newspaper drive? (5).
 - People of some standing — they can open doors, it's said (4).
 - A thinker to pay attention to (4).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 18,190 will appear next Saturday

Concise Crossword, page 22

WEATHER

Much of England and Wales will have a cloudy day with patchy rain. Over much of Scotland there will be persistent rain during the morning but eventually clearer weather with a few showers will spread into north-west Scotland. By this evening the clearer weather should have edged down into parts of Northern Ireland and central Scotland. Gales in northern and western Scotland. Outlook: Rain.

ABROAD

MONDAY: t=thunder; d=dew; lg=light; s=sun; sh=shower; sn=snow; w=wind; c=cloud; r=rain			
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World markets look to London after Wall St drop

By Colin Narborough and Jeremy Andrews

Executive Editor
David Brewerton
CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6700 (+0.0320)

W German mark
2.8047 (+0.0558)

Exchange index
88.3 (+1.3)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1909.1 (-39.7)

FT-SE 100
2380.1 (-64.4)

USM (Datastream)
157.53 (+1.32)

The stock market opens a new account this morning with dealers worried that Wall Street's sharp fall on Friday will trigger further selling pressure in London.

Tokyo is closed for a public holiday today, so world markets will be looking to London, the first big market to open since New York's Friday close, for a lead.

But fears that share prices will come under severe pressure this morning may be misplaced, says one leading analyst, who points out that although £8 billion was wiped off share values in London on Friday, the volume of sales was

small and the markdown was triggered by a sharp fall in Tokyo.

Mr Michael Hughes, equities strategist at EZW, said most of Friday's setback came late in the day. At 9am, when the market was responding mainly to domestic news — such as Ford's 10.2 per cent pay offer — the fall was only 15 points. The slide happened when forecasts began to circulate of a likely 80-point plunge on Wall Street, in response to the 653-point correction in Tokyo.

Mr Hughes said: "There were not strong signs of active investors selling." Institutions are believed to be sitting on about £25 billion in cash — equivalent to one year's cash flow — and anyway tend

towards putting it into the market, rather than taking it out.

Any renewed weakness in Tokyo when it reopens is likely to affect Wall Street. But with the exchanges closed today in Japan, it will be tomorrow before the knock-on effect is felt in London, he said.

However, Mr Hughes points out that London is beginning to decouple from New York and become more in line with Europe. "There is a fairly high correlation now between UK and German interest rates, for example. That is unlike four years ago, when a rise in US prime rates would have prompted fears about the need for a rise in UK rates."

The market is also unsettled by

fears that Mr John Major, the Chancellor, may have to push interest rates still higher to curb inflation. This will focus more than usual attention on UK economic indicators this week, starting today with the retail sales and producer prices figures for last month.

But average earnings and retail prices data, due on Thursday and Friday respectively, are likely to give better guidance to City analysts as to how the economy is responding to the Government's counter-inflationary strategy.

Although Mr Major last week told the National Economic Development Council that underlying inflation appeared to have "stabilised", the inflation rate as

measured by the retail price index is expected to show a further upturn to 7.9 per cent from 7.7 per cent in November.

Concern that interest rates might have to go higher in Japan and West Germany last week fuelled anxiety among City economists about the course of UK interest rates. Although there was broad consensus that UK rates would have to stay high for longer than expected, opinions were divided over whether they would have to rise.

Mr Roger Bootle, chief economist at Midland Montagu, notes that January has traditionally been a month for raising interest rates, as it enables the Government to set

them lower again at the time of the Budget.

However, he believes that, for all the ominous remarks from the NEDC meeting last week, Mr Major is anxious not to push the economy into recession by applying more interest-rate pressure, especially if there is sufficient evidence that the squeeze is getting through to companies.

Reports of a surge in retail sales at Christmas and a further rise in inflation could be just the "last knockings of the boom phase", Mr Bootle says. As for the pound, he believes market fears of higher interest rates could be useful in helping it hold on to its recent gains.

'Subdued' outlook for sales says CBI

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

The volume of retail sales in the Christmas period, although better than had been expected, was down on the previous year. New Year sales expectations are "subdued".

This is the verdict of Dr Andrew Sentance, economics director of the Confederation of British Industry, based on the latest distribution trades survey, which shows grocers having the best rise in sales. Food and drink wholesalers said there was a pick-up in sales growth during December. Worst hit were shoe shops, booksellers and stationers.

Warnings of lower January sales than a year ago came mainly from shops selling shoes, household textiles, furniture, carpets and clothing. Wholesalers talked of slower sales increases in January.

Vehicle sales are still running at a lower rate than a year ago, the survey found. Consequently stocks, with their attendant cost, have grown.

Retail sales growth in December exceeded that in November but what may have boosted trade then was the bringing forward of New Year sales by many retailers.

Mr Sentance said: "The coming year looks like being a tough one for retailers and expectations for January show little growth on a year ago."

Retailers are being squeezed not only by the effects of high interest rates — higher mortgage repayments mean less cash to spend in the shops — but also in many cases higher costs from the incoming Uniform Business Rate.

One of the worst hit sectors appears to be hard furnishings, as a result of the stagnant housing market.

Shearson man for London & Bishopsgate

By Our City Staff

Mr Mark Tapley, former equities director of Shearson Lehman's global asset management arm, is to take over as managing director of Mr Robert Maxwell's fund management group, London & Bishopsgate.

The group, established in 1988, claims to be "one of the largest index fund managers in the UK," although its £500 million of funds under management is small by industry standards.

Mr Tapley, aged 43, has 15 years' experience in fund management at JP Morgan and at Shearson Lehman, where he was a founding partner of Posthorn Asset Management.

London & Bishopsgate specialises in hedging and cash-management programmes. It manages First Tokyo Index Trust, "the first investment trust listed on the International Stock Exchange to track the first section of the Tokyo stock market."

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia	2.14	2.01
Canada	20.49	19.29
Denmark	51.80	57.79
France	2.08	1.88
Germany	11.27	10.87
Italy	6.94	6.54
Japan	9.82	9.53
Netherlands	2.82	2.74
Spain	283	257
Sweden	13.85	12.75
Switzerland	1.13	1.04
USA	2180	2050
UK	3275	3280
West Germany	11.21	10.85
Yugoslavia	259	243
South Africa	74.00	69.00
South Korea	189	177
South America	10.54	10.04
South East Asia	2.85	2.45
Thailand	43.69	37.90
Turkey	1.75	1.65
USA & Canada	1.75	1.65
Other	1.75	1.65

Bank of England rates for sterling bank deposits only as supplied by Barclays Bank, PLC. Different rates apply to other banks' deposits.

Campeau deal with M&S under threat

By Gillian Bowditch

Marks and Spencer's \$30 million (£18 million) deal with Campeau Corporation, the troubled Canadian stores and property group, has been thrown into doubt by Campeau's financial problems.

M&S paid Campeau \$30 million for the right to take space in the Canadian company's shopping malls and put its food shops in Campeau's stores. The deal is now in jeopardy and unless Campeau finds a solution to its debt problems, M&S faces a write-off of the entire sum.

The debts of the American retailing operations have brought Campeau's chains of stores, Federated and Allied, to the brink of bankruptcy.

Today they face a deadline for assuring a syndicate of banks which lent them \$2.34 billion that they are solvent. If they do not issue that assurance, they could be declared in default and forced into bankruptcy protection.

M&S did the deal with Campeau more than 18 months ago when it acquired Brooks Brothers, the US menswear business, for \$750 million. Under the agreement, Campeau gives M&S first refusal to take space in its US and Canadian malls and shopping centres for five years.

It also has the exclusive

right for three years to rent space at all Allied or Federated department stores in the US or Canada which do not already sell food, so that it could build up a speciality food operation in the US similar to that in Britain.

At the time of the deal, Mr Keith Oates, Marks and Spencer's finance director, said: "The preferential rights are extremely valuable. We have assigned these rights a conservative value of \$30 million."

But the value of the deal is now open to question as M&S has not taken up any of its rights so far.

The group agreed there is a possibility of the contract becoming void depending on Campeau's future.

A spokesman for the group said: "So far the emphasis has been on building up Brook Brothers and Kings in the United States." When asked what would happen to the agreement if Campeau's stores were taken over, he said it would depend on the circumstances.

Regarding the contract becoming null and void, he added: "That has got to be one possibility." But he said M&S had no regrets about the deal which was part of a "quality package and quality name".

In an attempt to restore credibility with creditors and suppliers, the directors of Campeau took steps last week

to make the company's American retailing operations independent.

After four days of meetings at the company's headquarters in Toronto, the directors said last Thursday that Campeau's US operations would be overseen by a new board, with a majority of American residents.

That board will appoint a new chief executive and chairman, the company said, and Mr Robert Campeau, the Canadian property entrepreneur and chairman of Campeau, will no longer have a voice in the retailing operations.

But analysts are worried that the move may have come too late to avoid a bankruptcy filing by Federated Department Stores and Allied Stores.

The problems with M&S's Campeau deal came at a time when the store group's whole strategy of using Brooks Brothers to penetrate the US market is being called into question.

Operating profits at the exclusive menswear group, which has 30 stores in the Far East as well as 50 in the US, halved to £5 million in the six months to September, though sales rose from £67 million to £85 million.

The setback was caused in part by M&S's attempts to modernize the 171-year-old retailer, which has clothed a succession of US presidents.

Hill digs in for victory

ADRIAN BROOKS



With just five-and-a-half days left, Sir Brian Hill, above in the garden of his Surrey home yesterday, was confident of burying the hostile £160 million takeover bid for his Higgs and Hill construction group.

The fellow building group, has been given the cold shoulder both by the stock market and a galaxy of leading industry figures.

said Sir Brian. Meanwhile Lovell is planning an intensive final week of meetings which are aimed at showing that the underlying value of its offer is rather more than the present 496p a share.

Temper, page 26

Switch on insiders dismissed by DTI

By Our City Staff

The Department of Trade and Industry has dismissed as "speculative" a Sunday newspaper article by one of its former press officers which said the Government was planning to hand over responsibility for insider-dealing investigations to the City watchdogs.

Until recently, Miss Sarah Whitebloom was an information officer handling City affairs at the DTI press office in Victoria Street and working closely with Mr John Redwood, the corporate affairs minister.

In her article in the Observer, she writes that DTI plans for giving responsibility for insider-dealing matters to the Securities and Investments Board and the International Stock Exchange are thought to be at a preliminary stage.

Such a move would probably find favour in the City where it would be seen to remove an unnecessary division of responsibilities between government and self-regulatory institutions.

Mr David Walker, SIB chairman, is furthermore believed to want to consolidate regulatory functions around his overseas body, putting it more on a footing with the powerful US Securities and Exchange Commission.

Attacks on the DTI's record on insider-dealing investigations are also believed to have played a key role in Government thinking on possible changes in the regulatory regime. During the past 10 years, it has prosecuted 24 people for such offences, and secured only 12 convictions, although the illegal practice is much more widespread.

De Ferranti in call to dismiss chairman and outside directors

By Colin Narborough

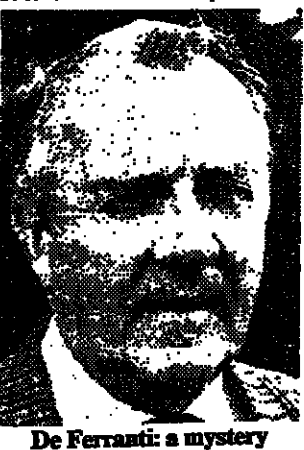
Mr Sebastian de Ferranti, the former Ferranti chairman, last night launched a blistering public attack on Sir Derek Ahn-Jones, the present chairman, calling for him to be sacked with his non-executive directors.

On the television Money Programme, Mr de Ferranti, still an influential shareholder in the troubled electronics and defence group, said Sir Derek and his outside directors had lost £200 million of stockholders' money and turned in a £15 million loss. "Why they are there I cannot imagine," he said.

He added that the disclosure last year that Ferranti had been defrauded of £200 million by a division of International Signal and Control,

its US subsidiary, should have led to immediate sackings.

It was a mystery why Ferranti merged in 1987 with ISC, when its owner, Mr James Guerin, was, he said, of such a "doubtful" reputation.



De Ferranti: a mystery

Mr de Ferranti said it was not only a mystery why Ferranti was unwisely enough to become involved with a "doubtful" operation run by a doubtful man, but it was a mystery that the board proceeded with the merger.

He added: "My advice to them was not to do it. The advice from the professional, the merchant bank who I employed to look at it on behalf of the trust, (was) 'Don't do it,' and yet they proceeded," he said. Ferranti himself has consistently denied it was given a warning not to complete the ISC deal.

In the turbulence following the ISC scandal, Ferranti's future as an independent company has increasingly appeared to depend on its success in securing the £2 billion European Fighter Aircraft

radar contract and Mr de Ferranti predicted that if Ferranti loses the contract, the company could collapse. Though this was to some extent a tragedy for shareholders, it was a real tragedy for the engineers, staff and workers.

Sir Derek last week expressed confidence that Ferranti's ECR 90 system would win the EFA contract.

The group has shored up its short-term finances with a £187.1 million rights issue and expects to renegotiate a standby agreement and a new money facility worth about £130 million this month.

Thomson-CSF, the French group that is the last suitor to show interest in Ferranti, is holding talks this week with at least two Ferranti divisions. But it appears not to be about to launch a bid.

Kingfisher 'will not pay a fancy price for Dixons'

By Jeremy Andrews

Kingfisher is accusing Dixons' management of presiding over "one of the worst collapses in profit in UK retailing" in an attempt to dampen expectations that it will raise its £568 million offer in the wake of Dixons' profits forecast last week. Although the £70 million forecast for the year to April was £20 million better than analysts' expectations, Mr Geoff Mulcahy, Kingfisher's chief executive, said: "We will not pay a fancy price for a business in this state."

Despite the market setback on Friday, Dixons' shares firmed 3p to 137p in anticipation of a higher offer than the 120p cash Kingfisher has already made. The bid has not been declared final and can still be raised until January 27 under the City code, but in a letter to Dixons' shareholders, Mr Mulcahy says: "The price must reflect the significant invest-

ment and effort to turn Dixons around." In the letter, Kingfisher contrasts the near-£80 million decline in Dixons' British retail profit since 1986-87 with the 22 per cent growth it claimed had occurred in the electricals market between April 1986 and November 1989.

Kingfisher drew attention to Dixons' own forecast that it would make only £3 million in the current year from retailing in Britain. However, Mr Robert Shrager, Dixons' finance director, argued that it is unrealistic not to include the profits it made in selling and underwriting extended warranties and credit. These bring expected British profits, ignoring property gains, to £40 million, a fall of only £3.6 million on last year's figure.

In an open letter to Mr Archie Norman, his opposite number at Kingfisher, Mr Shrager accuses him of trying to focus the attention of shareholders away from the future in "a blatant

attempt to acquire growth on the cheap." He adds: "You are doing so by creating confusion about the nature of modern consumer electronics retailing and by making a number of allegations about Dixons that are, to put it at its kindest, tendentious."

Kingfisher's letter to Dixons' shareholders portrays Comet, its own electrical store chain, as "a management success." But Mr Shrager says growth in Comet's market share is due to acquisitions and it is impossible for outsiders to work out its underlying profitability as its stock, debtors and trade creditors have been transferred to another Kingfisher company.

Mr Norman said: "I find his assertion that a company which has seen a near £80 million decline in the profits of its core business is 'robust and healthy' quite breathtaking — just more ostrich talk."

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TEMPUS

Brokers hit at HKSE penalties

From Lulu Yu
Hong Kong

A compulsory two-day settlement system, championed by the Hong Kong stock exchange, has angered the Crown Colony's international stockbroking community.

Brokers and fund managers want a longer settlement period and complain of the exchange's decision to impose penalties on late settlers.

Mr Philip Gray, chairman of the Hong Kong Unit Trust Association, even gave a warning of a migratory "scrap drain" if the exchange persists.

Mr Bill Waller, settlement manager at Smith New Court, the broker, said a group of 14 international brokers had called on the exchange to continue with the present 24-hour physical delivery system.

The system was begun after the global stock market crash in October 1987, when the colony's market was paralysed by unsettled scrip. No penalty is involved if brokers fail to settle in 24 hours: they simply agree on the time they need.

Mr Robert Owen, chairman of the Securities and Futures Commission, said the commission had yet to be convinced that a two-day settlement period "is the most appropriate choice from the point of view of maximizing the growth and utilization of Hong Kong's equity market by local and international investors and intermediaries."

A number of brokers have urged the authorities to consider a T plus five, or even a T plus three, system.

It is believed that penalties for late settlements after two days will impose a substantial stock-borrowing cost on the larger brokers who deal for foreign investors. But Miss Susan Selwyn, deputy chief executive of the exchange, said there was "little reason for going back without giving the system a reasonable period of testing."

Only the brave should think about a shopping trip for Storehouse

Few in the City have a good word for Storehouse. Sir Terence Conran's experiment to turn British Home Stores, Mothercare and Habitat into a cohesive stores group has failed dismally. Mr Michael Julien, the group's chief executive, and his new management team are now trying to pick up the pieces.

Even so, the bulls came out in Storehouse at the end of last week. First there was a weighty "buy" document from Goldman Sachs suggesting the group as the best turnaround situation in the sector.

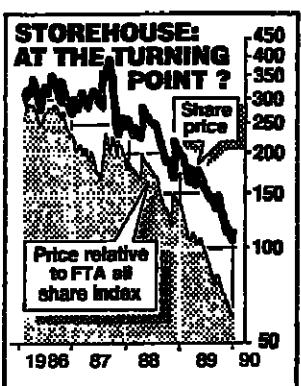
Second, there was talk that Tesco is planning to bid, a prospect which must be rated as highly unlikely.

But Goldman's contention that the group could be posting profits of £100 million by the mid-1990s needs closer inspection. The case rests heavily on a belief that the management changes are successful. Of the 12-strong board, only two were directors in 1986.

Other parts of the argument have a depressingly familiar ring: that BHS is not a dinosaur, but has enormous potential for profit if managed properly; Habitat, although experiencing problems in Britain is doing well in France; and Mothercare could eventually triple its size if it exploited its US and overseas opportunities fully. Hope has yet to triumph over adversity.

Goldman contends that earnings are no longer a reliable way to measure the value of Storehouse because of the dramatic fall in profits and that the shares are beginning to look attractive on anything other than a short-term earnings view. The net asset value is 126p, and the yield, if the dividend is maintained, is 10 per cent.

Mr Julien himself says it will take at least three years to turn the company round, and at 121p, Storehouse's pro-



pective price/earnings ratio, assuming profits of £20 million for the year to June, is 31. Investors should wait for the shares to fall to a reasonable p/e ratio or for some tangible evidence of recovery before buying.

Allied-Lyons

Allied-Lyons has been building a treasure chest of immensely valuable brand names over the past few years.

But it coyly refuses to tread the path of GrandMet and Guinness, its international drinks rivals, by putting some of that value in the shop window. Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, Allied's chairman, winces visibly when the idea is suggested.

Sir Derrick is under no pressure to put the crown jewels on display. He has the comfort of a beefy balance sheet including 6,600 public houses and hard assets like breweries, restaurants and offices. Net assets account for 75 per cent of Allied's current £3.75 billion stock market valuation.

But the value investing team at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, dedicated to seeking out neglected or overlooked riches in the stock market, has run its eye over Allied's brands and the results are spectacular.

The team uses several approaches, most commonly



Three-year task: Michael Julien, Storehouse chief executive

producing a "sum of the parts" valuation which highlights assets such as ships, properties or brands which may be ignored in conventional earnings-based appraisals.

Using the same techniques employed by RHM and GrandMet, BZW shows that Allied's wines and spirits brands alone are worth £4 billion — more than the group's market capitalization — on a break-up basis.

Star asset in a whole galaxy within the division is Ballantine's, the world's number two Scotch whisky brand and the best seller in Europe, with a value of £1.125 billion.

Kahlua, the top coffee liqueur in the US, which sold 2.5 million cases last year, is reckoned to be worth £750 million in a bid context.

Canadian Club and Teachers weigh in at £340 million and £300 million respectively while Courvoisier, the num-

ber two Cognac in Britain, the US and France, is given a £450 million valuation.

Valuing Allied's food brands, which include Baskin-Robbins, the ice-cream company, which has 3,500 US stores, Tetley and Dunkin' Donuts in the US to say nothing of the Lyons interests in Europe produces a figure of £1.44 billion.

The group break-up valuation, after netting-off debt, emerges at just short of £8 billion, or 953p per share. Discounting this back to a trading valuation rather than a bid basis suggests a figure of 618p per share giving a p/e multiple of 13 times.

Allied could in future usefully be viewed as a property and branded goods company, suggests BZW, and rates the shares a buy.

Higgs and Hill

Bids for contracting companies seem a law unto themselves. Professional investors rarely award high ratings to the best stocks in the sector, yet seem curiously reluctant to part with them — even when offered large capital gains for the privilege. So it was with Tilbury and Lilley and appears to be the case in Lovell's offer for Higgs and Hill.

Friday's reminder from Lovell that its cash and paper offer was worth 496p per share — for a stock trading at less than 300p just before the bid — was greeted joyously with an 8p dip in Higgs shares to 426p.

The 70p gap is the clearest possible verdict of the market. Barring a substantial shift in sentiment, the bid will fail.

There are several apparent oddities in this state of affairs. Numerous analysts suggest that Higgs and Hill, with a long housebuilding land bank and some plum property developments, is worth comfortably more than 500p a

share. Surely Lovell's 496p is better than the market's 426p, let alone the likely lower price if the bid fails? That might be true, if the market had not simply turned its face against the whole idea of a takeover.

Higgs uses selective data to suggest that a fair valuation of its assets might be closer to 600p per share. Lovell contends that its offer will prove to be worth more like 550p when its own shares recover their normal rating. But if Higgs's limping share price is any guide, neither side is cutting any ice with investors.

This week will prove decisive as Lovell's roadshow makes its final presentations before the last closing date next Saturday. Lovell has some hard pounding in mind — it will attempt to overcome deep-rooted subjective judgments before trying to persuade shareholders on financial grounds.

Prime among these judgemental issues is that Higgs's management has performed extremely well in recent years, and should not easily be abandoned to a predator. Second, there is a fear that because of some acrimony between the two companies at the start of the battle, the combined group might prove an executive battlefield. In the contracting business, very much a matter of personal relations between customers and senior management, the perceived wisdom is that this would be disastrous.

The third judgement is that the part cash alternative in Lovell's terms is too little to allow a graceful withdrawal from the sector. Having been denied the option of an exit, so the perception goes, why not stick with blue-chip Higgs rather than the more down-market Lovell?

With such mountains to climb, Lovell might at last exit with a flourish by lapsing the offer.

Call for boost to private investor

By Colin Nisbrough

The Government should scrutinize the stock market with a view to far-reaching reform to foster more individual investment in business enterprise, according to Dr Maurice Gillibrand, a member of the Wider Share Ownership Council.

In an open letter to Mr Edgar Palmountain, the council chairman, he says the appeal of share ownership is being presented as a "speculator's dream of making a quick buck" instead of genuine investment in business.

Dr Gillibrand says water privatization most recently demonstrated that individuals were buying shares in the hope of selling them quickly at a premium to the institutions.

He expresses concern that, while privatization has led to many more individuals buying shares, the stock market proportion owned by the institutions has risen from about 50 per cent in 1969 to 68 per cent last year.

Underlining the Government's readiness to undertake reform of the judiciary and the legal and medical professions, he writes: "It should now take a good look at the stock market."

He calls on the council to lobby the Government for two specific reforms aimed at reducing volatility in the share market and boosting the volume of new issues.

He proposes that capital gains tax should apply to institutional shareholdings, but be lowered each year the investment is held for up to, say, five years.

To encourage individual shareholding, he calls for distribution of the whole of annual profits, after depreciation, to forcing companies to meet future capital needs from new share issues.

This, he says, would cater to individual investors' preference for new issues rather than dealing in the market.

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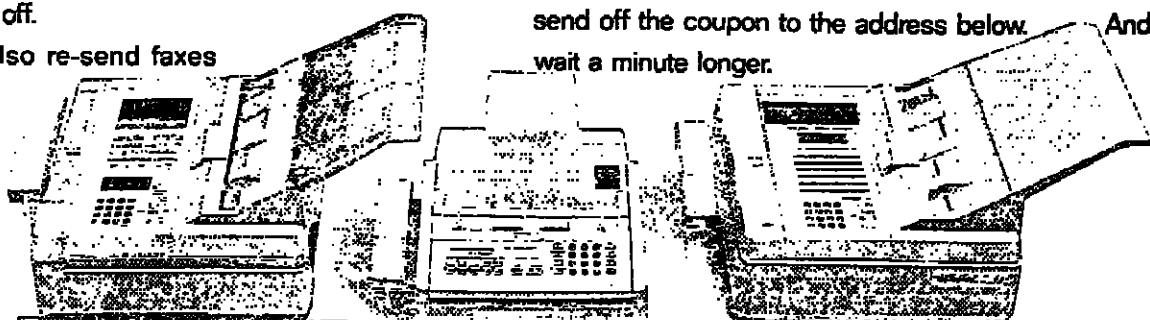
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Shares fall as Japan fears add to gloom in bonds

From Maxwell Newton, New York

The underlying malaise in the bond market has begun to affect shares as evidence of zero growth in the economy accumulates.

At the same time, growing problems in Japan are casting doubts on the ability of the Japanese financial markets to lead the world.

Its bond market is in trouble, with Japanese 10-year bond yields jumping from 5.04 per cent three months ago to nearly 6.5 per cent today.

The prospect of another rise in the Japanese discount rate is causing concern about the American and Japanese financial markets. The yen's weakness is unsettling all markets.

There is growing acceptance that in the last December quarter, the US economy may have fallen into zero growth and, in the first quarter, this may become negative growth.

At the heart of the problems in the US financial markets is the dreadful gloom in Treasury bonds during the last six months. Business has been slow; companies have been closing departments; losses are mounting. Now bond prices have begun to fall. In December, conditions in bonds deteriorated without price falls. Now we are getting the price drops forecast towards the end of 1989.

As a result, the US yield curve is becoming more positive. Short-term yields are falling as credit demand weakens; long-term yields are rising

on fears of inflation and a weaker dollar. The consumer quit the retail markets in the December quarter, when "real" (inflation-adjusted) retail sales fell about 1.5 per cent. Even excluding the sheltered motor sector, there was no growth or even a slight decline in retail sales volume.

Meanwhile, US commercial banks are grappling with problems in unseizable property of the type that eventually destroyed the savings and loan industry. The financial catastrophe in Latin America continues to affect US banks. But huge provisions are being made for bad debts of all kinds. The 40 per cent drop in the profit of J P Morgan in the fourth quarter was indicative

of the pervasive weakness of commercial banks, which roughly doubled their outstanding mortgage business in the past six years.

The problems in the Japanese bond market — and to a degree the Japanese stock market — are adding to US concern that the Japanese may be obliged to abandon their buying of US financial paper.

Another issue has arisen. The Federal Reserve Board has continued to cut the federal funds rate — but bond prices have not responded.

In the past two months, the federal funds rate has been cut from 8.4 per cent to 8.2 per

cent — but the yield on the US 10-year Treasury note has risen from 7.9 per cent to 8.06 per cent and the yield on the US 30-year bond has risen from 7.89 per cent to 8.13 per cent. This is an ominous trend that has undermined the belief that "if only the Fed would ease, everything will be all right." The Fed has eased quite a bit — but things are definitely not all right.

The worst aspect clearly has been the belief that "stagflation" is returning — the ominous combination of a weak dollar (which, on a trade-weighted basis, has fallen 11 per cent since last September); notable weakness in the economy, including a contraction of the industrial sector; and a worrying acceleration of oil and non-industrial commodity prices and finished producer good prices.

The problems are developing in the context of a world economy where, according to Columbia University Centre for International Business Cycle Research, "for more of the industrial countries, the economic traffic signals ahead are saying 'slow growth ahead'."

The response of ordinary Americans has been to raise personal savings rates, to stop buying cars, to take money out of uninsured thrift deposits, and to put vast sums into money-market mutual funds where deposits have risen a huge 29 per cent in the past year.

Indian debt set to hit \$60bn this year

New Delhi (Reuters) — India is facing a debt trap and will be pragmatic about foreign investment and exchange controls, while trying to trim rising trade and budget deficits, Mr Madhu Dandavate, the finance minister, said in an interview yesterday.

External debt will rise to about \$60 billion (£36 billion) in the 1989-90 financial year, which ends in March, from about \$55 billion the year before, he said.

"That would imply the debt service ratio (the proportion of export earnings needed to repay debt) would be more than 30 per cent, whereas the safe ratio is about 20 per cent."

Mr Dandavate added: "The implication is that about one-third of our foreign exchange earnings will be spent on interest repayments rather than on developmental activities."

India's foreign exchange reserves had fallen to \$3.2 billion at the end of December from \$4.3 billion at the end of

1988, according to official government figures — which is enough to pay the country's total import bill for approximately two-and-a-half months.

Mr Dandavate said: "There is an urgent need for our country not to get entangled in a debt trap."

"There is no soft solution to achieve this except a long-drawn process to build an economy of self-reliance."

He added: "As a degree of self-reliance grows, the degree of external borrowing will go down."

India is not now seeking a balance of payments loan from the International Monetary Fund.

But Mr Dandavate declined to rule out such a loan. "Our intentions depend on the situation," he said.

E German plea for investment

Frankfurt (Reuters) — East Germany needs investment of DM10 billion (£3.56 billion) a year to modernize its economy and move to a free market system, Dr Wolfgang Röllner, the chairman of the Dresdner Bank, said in a radio interview.

This would allow East Germany's living standards to catch up with West Germany within 10 years, Dr Röllner predicted.

Dr Röllner said the aid should come from the private sector rather than from the European Community or the West German government and that monetary changes in East Germany should stress price reforms and a tight budgetary policy.

He expected the West German mark to become a parallel currency with the East German mark in East Germany and said the East German authorities should be ready to change the parities between the two currencies when necessary.

هَذَا مِنْ الْأَصْلِ

Reject Balmoral plan, Norfolk Hotels urges

By Colin Narbrough

The operations board of Norfolk Capital Hotels has issued a strong appeal to shareholders in its parent, Norfolk Capital Group, to vote against proposals by Balmoral International aimed at unseating Mr Peter Eyles, Norfolk's managing director.

Edinburgh-based Balmoral, the recently-formed hotels group whose 13 per cent stake in Norfolk makes it the company's largest shareholder, is seeking to have three of its executives elected to Norfolk's main board and to

force the resignation of Mr Eyles.

Lady (Eileen) Joseph, widow of Sir Maxwell Joseph, who appointed Mr Eyles, last week called for the chief executive's replacement and said she would put her 7 per cent stake in the company behind the appointment of Mr Peter Tyrie, Balmoral's managing director, to the Norfolk board as a non-executive director.

While many of Norfolk's 20,000 small shareholders are expected to follow Lady Jo-

seph's recommendation, a majority of the main board has already rejected the Balmoral proposals, which will be put to an extraordinary meeting on January 29.

In a letter to shareholders at the weekend, all eight directors of the Norfolk Capital Hotels board backed Mr Eyles, and urged shareholders to try to keep the company independent and throw out the Balmoral proposals.

The board says it has received letters and petitions from hundreds of employees

stating their support for Norfolk's present managing team. It recalls that Mr Eyles was appointed when the company was in poor financial health and that it has prospered and grown in value and reputation under his leadership.

"We, together with the rest of the management and staff, believe that Norfolk Capital has a bright future under Peter Eyles and that he should continue to lead the company for the benefit of us all, shareholders and employees alike," the letter says.

OECD to discuss aid for East Europe

By Our Economics Correspondent

Officials from leading industrial countries meet in Paris today to work out details of the proposed European Bank for Reconstruction and Development which is intended to inject free-market life into the economies of Eastern Europe.

The new bank, expected to have a capital base of between \$12 billion (£7.2 billion) and \$18 billion, could lend as much as \$3.5 billion a year towards overhauling the region's troubled economies.

While the political opening up of Eastern Europe is virtually complete, the task of making them economically viable lies ahead. Western economists, however, expect development of the long-neglected region will greatly stimulate the world economy.

Britain, wary of committing public money to schemes that might help prop up command economies, wants to ensure the bank's resources are limited and its support focused on fostering private enterprise.

The 12 European Community countries are likely to provide the bulk of funds. France, the most vigorous proponent of the plan, hopes for broad agreement from the two-day meeting, attended by delegates from the 24 member states of the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development. President Mitterrand of France, who opens the meeting, is seeking final accord on the bank by next month, although this is widely regarded as over-optimistic.

The way in which funding would be shared is likely to be a key topic, with Britain, West Germany, France and Italy expected to carry 8.5 per cent each. The US, the Soviet Union and Japan would have equal shares. Poland, Hungary, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Romania would hold 6.5 per cent each.

Kunick buys £4.5m home

Kunick, the nursing home operator and fruit machine supplier, has bought a "care complex" for £4.45 million.

The new development at Blackheath, south east London, will accommodate 47 residents in a nursing home and 33 adjoining apartments will be for sale or rent.

ECONOMIC VIEW

Why Britain must hold on to its virtuous circle

Among the more interesting of the reflections was Walter Eltis's paper last week to the Institute of Economic Affairs conference on the state of the economy.

According to the Nedo director general, the first stage of Britain's economic rehabilitation is well under way after the sharp rise in manufacturing productivity during the 1980s, which has been faster either than during previous periods in Britain or than in other countries. What is needed in the 1990s is to move on to the second stage and take British products up market so they compete not only on price but also on quality.

He was not advocating a return to the disastrous attempts by amateurs in Whitehall to pick winners in industry. Though last week's meeting of the National Economic Development Council — the first to be chaired by John Major, the new Chancellor — was by the standards of such things a success, there will be no return to the five-year plan mentality.

But while it is futile to try to decide the economic fate of the nation in smoke-filled rooms, there is everything to be said for attempting to work out what is going on in the economy.

What we have seen emerge in the past few years, says Mr Eltis, is that rare event in recent British economic history — a virtuous circle. Through the pain of the labour shake-out in the early years of the decade, industry has been able to raise its productivity substantially.

Higher productivity has enabled companies to earn higher profits: returns which fell to desirous levels in the 1970s have recovered during the 1980s to something approaching international standards. Higher profitability has in turn encouraged and helped finance higher investment. And higher investment is leading to further gains in productivity.

This process is now vulnerable. Profitability is falling in the face of high interest rates and falling domestic demand as last week's figures from the Central Statistical Office confirmed. High pay settlements will erode it further. Investment intentions, although they have held up relatively well so far, have begun to fall back.

Moving products up market will involve spending on research and development. By 1987 Britain was spending about 1½ per cent of national income on business R&D — less than West Germany, Japan and the US, which were spending about 2 per cent, but about the same as France and Italy. But these

outlays, too, could be threatened by a loss of confidence in industry.

Yet maintaining the circle is vitally important. As Mr Major said at the Nedo meeting, although business investment has risen strongly in Britain during the past few years, it is still below the average for the Group of Seven industrial countries and has been at its new higher levels for a shorter period than in competitor nations. He was no doubt too polite to add that there is also some evidence that in the past the quality of investment has left something to be desired compared with that in other countries.

A high level of investment — both in hardware and in training — is likely to be the only route both to continued increases in productivity and to higher product quality.

It is certainly arguable — and was so argued by John Kay of the London Business School at the IEA conference — that many of the productivity gains in the 1980s have been once-and-for-all improvements obtained in industries such as steel, coal and newspapers where the scope for improvement was uniquely large. For the future, productivity progress will have to be paid for in hard cash through a higher level of investment.

What, if anything, should the Government do about this? One thing it should not do is relax the financial pressure on companies by cutting interest rates prematurely or boosting demand through tax cuts. The biggest gift of all that it can deliver to industry is a low and stable rate of inflation. A rise in inflation creates uncertainty about the measures which will be taken to bring prices back under control, leading to hesitation over investment plans. It may also, if prices rise no faster than costs while interest rates have to be sharply increased, narrow the rate of return net of interest payments. That reduces the incentive to invest, destroying the virtuous circle.

Apart from low inflation, the best gift the Government can give industry is to continue its policies of liberalizing the economy and allowing markets to work. In particular, it needs to continue the process of freeing labour markets where surviving protectionism, as in goods markets, must be abandoned. It means the continuing deregulation and privatization of the public sector. And it means a medium-term commitment to low taxation. Given these conditions and a relatively swift death to inflation, there is still a reasonable chance that the virtuous circle may survive.

Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

Sales of spirits dip 1.7%

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

Progressive weakening of the spirits market, with gin and whisky among the notable casualties, is likely to have led to overall sales declines during 1989. In consequence, the Treasury is likely to lose about £40 million in revenue from taxation.

The forecast comes from the Wine and Spirit Association whose analyses show that in the 12 months to the end of last September total spirits sales by volume were down 1.7 per cent.

Among home-produced spirits, gin was down 3.4 per cent and whisky by 2 per cent. There have been some trade reports which suggest that by the year-end sales may have declined further with whisky possibly down by 5 per cent.

Another category, which mostly consists of vodka, was a flat market, as was cognac.

Rum, up 4.4 per cent, did better than some because the lighter varieties in particular, are used so much in mixing drinks. In the good weather of last year's third quarter rum sales improved.

Products which did best in the fine weather were those popularly used in iced long drinks, said Mr Alastair Eadie, the association's chairman.

Other imported brands are continuing to sell well, rising by 7.9 per cent in the annual totals. Overall imported spirits are still down, by 0.3 per cent. The home produced spirits as a group declined 2.2 per cent.

Continental wins £20m contract to supply BSB

By Our City Staff

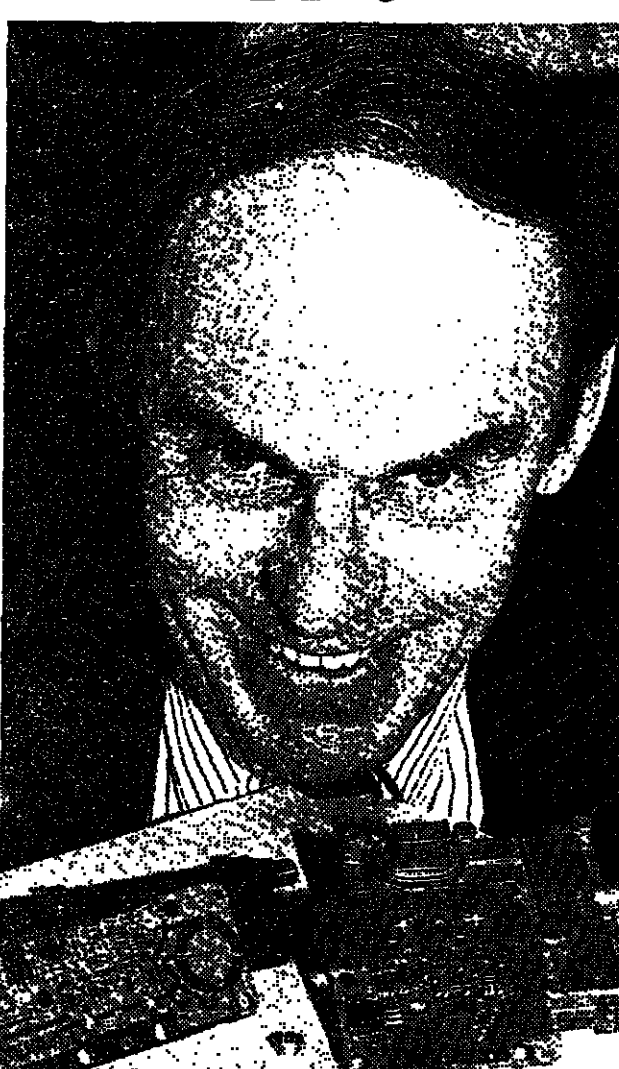
Shares in Continental Microwave, the communications equipment manufacturer, are likely to rise today when the company announces it has won a £20 million order which will increase its annual sales by more than 50 per cent.

Mr Roy Titchmarsh, managing director of the Continental subsidiary which won the order, said the contract was with British Satellite Broadcasting to supply a million decoding components for its aerials. This will increase sales by £10 million this year, compared with the group's 1988-9 turnover of £19.4 million.

The component is a low-noise converter, which receives the signal from the satellite, magnifies it and transmits it by wire to television sets. Continental won the order after a breakthrough in which it discovered how to use a gallium-arsenide semiconductor to make the converter cheaper and smaller. It will fit BSB's Squarial and its mini-disk.

The converter's manufacture will be a joint venture, with Continental sub-contracting the casting and final assembly to companies in Northampton and Dorset.

The deal could not have come at a better time, since the company's profits fell 60 per cent in the year to last June after problems with some large defence contracts. Before the order, City analysts predicted profits would recover to £1.5 million in the current year.



Coded for success: Titchmarsh's order will boost sales by 50%

Building societies set to fall below 100

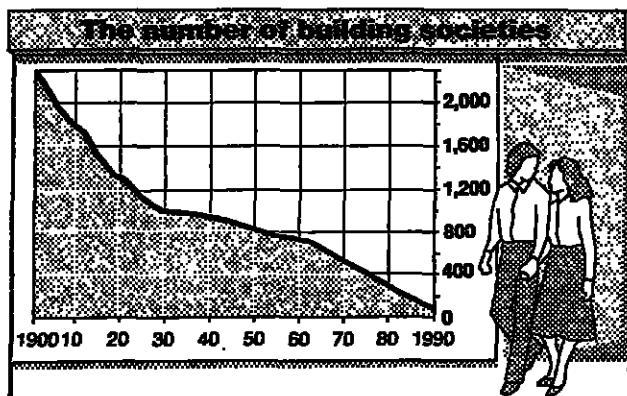
By Neil Bennett

Fewer than 100 building societies will be left in Britain soon, according to industry sources, as the trend of mergers continues unabated. And the number may fall to as little as 10 by the end of the century.

The membership of the Building Societies Association has now fallen to 105, down from 273 in 1980. By comparison, there were 2,286 at the start of the century.

The total is already set to fall by two when the planned mergers of the Cheltenham & Gloucester and the Guardian, and the Eastbourne and West Sussex go through this year.

On current projections the psychologically-important 100 figure will be breached by the autumn. Society numbers



have been in long-term decline due to constant agreed mergers, which strengthen assets and reduce overall costs.

Many industry analysts expect the decline to accelerate in the last years of the century,

as banks and insurance companies start to acquire them in agreed takeovers.

A number of institutions are known to be talking to societies since many offer a strong high street presence through

which they could sell retail financial services. The first deals could be announced later this year.

Most analysts think the number will drop to about 50 by the year 2000. But a report from the Britannia Building Society says the number could fall to six to 10 large mutual societies.

Figures to be released soon could show total assets owned by building societies nearing a record £200 billion. Last year assets were £189 billion, but these included more than £30 billion from the Abbey National which has been removed from the figures since it went public. Society deposits rose sharply last year, and the total is believed to be more than £195 billion.

Scrimgeour reunion

By popular demand, the reunion of former Scrimgeour Kemp & Co employees, held last year for the first time, is due to be repeated on February 1. "It looks like it's becoming an annual event," says organizer Mike Styles, these days an electronics analyst at Smith New Court.

"The caterers are expecting more than 100 people — including Mark Kemp-Gee, now the senior partner at Greig Middleton — and they are coming from far and wide." All party-goers are being asked to stump up £5 ahead of time to cover the cost of food and premises hire and any surplus will, Styles promises, be put behind the bar.

Making no secret of their professional status as financial advisers, the thrash is being held in the recently-opened Copthall Avenue restaurant, Ashley's, in which 35 or so ex-SKG and Greenwells employees are shareholders. Ashley's was originally a coffee shop in the same Copthall Avenue building as Kemp & Co in the 1970s. It was then forced to find new premises in 1985 when the said building was demolished. "We all invested in it, by way of a Business Expansion Scheme," says Styles, and it now has four restaurants-cum-wine bars.

Two are in Copthall Avenue, one called Portico, is in Philpot Lane, and the fourth, called Courtneys, is at Aldgate East. "Joe Ashley, who ran the original cafe, is now the chairman of the company," Styles adds.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

D-Day cometh at CSV

Some, at least, of the UK equity analysts, salesmen and market-makers at Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers are expected to be put out of their misery this week, when the firm lets its first tranche of employees go. Although not all the decisions about exactly which individuals will be laid off have yet been made, it is understood that CSV has reached an agreement in principle to announce some of the job losses before Friday. The firm is trying to resolve the entire situation before the end of the month. Its chosen restructuring route, once officially unveiled, is expected to herald an increased emphasis on its European activities — as outlined in the City Diary a week ago — with only a minimal operation remaining in the loss-making UK equities area.

Hare-brained

Westmead Flow, a two-year-old greyhound bitch, made a highly successful debut at Wimbledon dog track last week, romping home at odds of seven-to-one. No-one was more surprised at the dog's performance than her joint owners, Trevor Bass, that

doyen of City financial PR men, and our own stock market correspondent, Mick Clark. In fact, it was only when Bass and Clark were toasting Westmead's good fortune, in their favourite Fleet Street wine bar, that it dawned on them that neither had actually got around to backing her. "She didn't look as though she stood a chance, but the favourite went lame which allowed her to come through from behind," bemoaned the luckless Bass. Nevertheless, both sportsmen are encouraged by their dog's prospects, and the £100 prize money. Even more so upon discovering that their trainer, Tommy Foster, has nicknamed the bitch "Flo-Jo" after the American sprinter. Clark assures me that someone has already made an offer of £3,000 for her, but that they have turned the offer down flat. Or is our wily market man simply talking his own book?



Rebuilding time

Long-standing investment clients of Swiss Bank Corporation, owner of Savory Mills, might have been forgiven for a touch of déjà vu recently when a bulletin from the group's highly-rated building team dropped on their desks. Bob Erith, chairman of the equities group at SBC, was leaving through his old files when he came across a circular that appeared to sum up the outlook for the currently-embattled building industry. The date on the circular was 1980, when the industry was apparently going through a similar crisis. Bob had kicked off with a quotation from Maréchal Foch — "My centre gives way, my right is recoiling — situation excellent, I attack!" — while claiming, as it turned out quite rightly, that share prices in the sector had reached their nadir. He now claims that history is showing signs of repeating itself. "There are not many of us who have been around long enough to remember these various cycles," he says.

Analysts downgraded their profit forecasts last September after there were delays in new products being launched. Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, estimates that final pre-tax profits will expand from £15.8 million to £17.5 million.

TVS Entertainment, the contractor for the South of England, gave a warning last autumn that profits would be lower than those at the interim stage.

Analysts expect pre-tax profits of about £12 million when the company reports its second interim results for the year to October and, even with the change in the year-end to December, the problems with

TODAY

Evode Group, the chemicals and adhesives company, has made a number of acquisitions during the year and seen a significant change in structure.

Smith New Court, the broker, is looking for final pre-tax profits of £12 million (compared with £9 million last time) with some forecasts up to £13.9 million.

British trading, which accounts for about 75 per cent of the total, will have been hit by the downturn in consumer demand and, with gearing thought to be about 55 per cent, high interest charges will also affect profits.

However, Chamberlain Phipps, the shoe components and adhesives group that was acquired for £87 million last May, should make a contribution, although it will only be included for a few months.

News will be eagerly awaited about its impact on the group and analysts expect next year's profits to top £20 million.

Interim: Excalibur Group, Fletcher King, Harrison Industries, Mosaic Investments, Severn Trust, Telford Group.

Final: Evode Group, London Scottish Bank.

TOMORROW

Eurotherm International, the control systems manufacturer, should be fairly well insulated against the economic downturn in Britain as about 70 per cent of sales are overseas. With gearing at roughly 20 per cent, the company should not be too exposed to British interest rates.

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REPORTING THIS WEEK

Full-time profits at revamped Evode may reach almost £14m



Smiles of success: Peter May (left), the joint managing director of Mountleigh, and Nelson Peltz, the chairman

MTM will mean that TVS will be well short of last year's profits of £26.1 million.

Interim: Cantors, Clark (Matthew) and Sons (Holdings), Debenham Towner & Chimac Holdings, Empire Stores Group, Hampden Industries, Jura Hotel Group, Palmerton Holdings, River & Mercantile Extra Income Trust (first interim dividend), Somerville (William) & Son, TVS Entertainment.

Final: Eurotherm International, London & Clydeside Holdings, Sturge Holdings.

WEDNESDAY

The squeeze on consumer spending should have little effect on First Leisure Corporation, Lord Delfont's entertainment group, although higher interest rates will have some impact on finance charges.

Continued organic growth should help the group report taxable profits of £25 million at full time, against £20.2 million last year, according to County NatWest WoodMac, the broker.

The group's discotheque businesses are expected to show the best growth with the ten-pin bowling side producing a good performance. A marginal improvement is seen at Lookers, the Man-

chester car dealer, as the downturn in vehicle sales was slower to come through in the North of England where this dealer is based.

BZW is looking for pre-tax profits of £6.8 million for the year to end-September, compared with £6.3 million.

A further improvement is expected from Martins and caravan sales should also make a contribution, although higher interest charges will probably have an impact on profits.

Interim: Barbour Index, Buffels-fursten Gold Mining Co, City of Oxford Investment Trust (third interim dividend), Dalepak Foods.

Final: Burnside Investments, First Leisure Corporation, Greenwich Resources, Group Development Capital Trust, Lookers.

Interim: Allied Leisure, Anglo American Corporation of South Africa (quarterly), First Development & Investment Corporation, Jarvis, Millie Group, Mountleigh, Stanley Leisure Organisation, Symonds Engineering.

Final: Assets Trust, South African Land & Exploration, Southend Holdings, Vitan Investment Company.

FRIDAY

Norfolk House, the acquisitive property and garage services group which is quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, is expected to return full-year taxable profits of about £8.5 million, compared with last year's £6.1 million.

Some analysts believe that this figure could even be passed and they expect a bullish statement from Mr Tom Harrison, the chairman. Since the year-end, Norfolk House has made a number of disposals — totalling £36 million — and several acquisitions, including an £11 million purchase from its competitor DC Cook.

Interim: DC Cook Holdings, DAB Investments, North of Scotland Investment Company, Smith (David S) Holdings.

Final: Cardiff Property, Elandsand Gold Mining, LPA Industries, Norfolk House Group, St Andrew Trust, Selective Assets Trust, South African Land & Exploration, Southern Holdings, Vitan Investments & Mining, Western Deep Levels.

Philip Pangalos

Japan's loss could be UK's gain

Warehouse key to sweep into Europe



Betterware wins soft loan

The drive into north France begins once the new warehouse starts operating in July. Direct selling is more popular on the Continent than in Britain and Mr Cohen is keen to expand further into the Benelux countries and eventually West Germany while keeping his British base, rather than taking the risk of setting up a business abroad.

Mortgage lenders urge abolition of stamp duty

The council says: "If the Conservative Party's commitment to keeping the present system of mortgage relief is to be met, it is clearly necessary to review the tax relief limit."

Access seeks return to share dealings from safety of Spider's web

about It"

Bimec's green growth

UNLISTED SECURITIES

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Company	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302																																																																																					
14.24 Chemtronics	11	

THIRD MARKET

[illegible]

GOLD

[illegible]

"Don't Invest Without It"
MAXWELL NEWTON'S
MONTHLY MONEY
NEWSLETTER

- FREE: Maxwell Newton's global investment video (PAL-VHS)**

Purchase underlines Japanese confidence in colony

Meiji Mutual buys 1% of HK Bank

From Lulu Yu, Hong Kong

both banks agree, we might decide to do something during 1990," Mr Purves said. He said he "considered it unlikely, in the light of the bank's

THE TIMES
STOCK
WATCH
 0898 141 141

- Stockwatch gives instant access to more than 13,000 share, unit trust and bond prices. The information is available on the following telephone numbers:
- Stock market comment: The general situation in the stock market can be found by ringing 0898 121220. Items of company news are available by dialling 0898 121221, while the prices of shares that are actively trading in the market may be found by ringing 0898 121225.
- Calls are charged at 38p a minute peak times and 25p a minute at standard times. All charges include VAT.

ep into Europe

s soft loan

OLIVES
PAPER

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Midland	Building/Roads	1.00
2	Scott & Robertson	Industrials S-Z	1.00
3	ADM Group (us)	Industrials S-Z	1.00
4	Debenhams	Drapery/Stores	1.00
5	Debenhams	Industrials A-D	1.00
6	Debenhams	Property	1.00
7	Debenhams	Industrials S-Z	1.00
8	Debenhams	Industrials L-R	1.00
9	Debenhams	Industrials	1.00
10	Debenhams	Industrials	1.00
11	Debenhams	Industrials	1.00
12	Debenhams	Industrials	1.00
13	Debenhams	Industrials	1.00
14	Debenhams	Industrials	1.00
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45	Debenhams	Industrials	1.00
46	Debenhams	Industrials	1.00
47	Debenhams	Industrials	1.00
48	Debenhams	Industrials	1.00
49	Debenhams	Industrials	1.00
50	Debenhams	Industrials	1.00

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £12,000 on Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

UNDATED

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

INDEX LINKED

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

Capitalization and change on week

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began today. Dealings end January 26. Contango day January 29. Settlement day February 5.
Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks.

BREWERIES

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

BUILDING, ROADS

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

FINANCE, LAND

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

FOODS

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

DRAPERY, STORES

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

HOTELS, CATERERS

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

INDUSTRIALS L-R

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

INSURANCE

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

LEISURE

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

MINING

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

OILS, GAS

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

SHIPPING

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

SHOES, LEATHER

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

TEXTILES

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

TOBACCOS

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

WATER

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

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Government offices have been told to make real cuts in power usage, David Young reports

Mrs Thatcher will summon her senior ministers into the Cabinet office in a few months' time and ask them one by one: "Just how much have you managed to cut from your department's energy bills so far this year?"

Pity the poor minister who replies: "We tried our hardest, but people still leave the lights on."

The Prime Minister's determination that Britain will become a nation of energy-savers has meant that every government department has a minister specifically charged with monitoring the fuel use and finding ways of cutting out waste.

They report regularly to the Energy Minister, Peter Morrison, who himself has been made responsible for cutting the power bills at the new ministry offices near Buckingham Palace. He recently angrily phoned the chairman of one of Britain's biggest construction companies to say that powerful floodlights were being left on during the day at a building site near Trafalgar Square and that they must be switched off.

Mrs Thatcher has stressed that the energy-saving exercise will be conducted in public and those who do not achieve significant savings will be asked to explain why. It is even possible that there will be an award for the best performer — a gold-plated "Maggie" perhaps to sit on a ministerial mantelpiece?

The winner should be the Energy Department itself. After all, it has the services of its own Energy Efficiency Office, run by Dr Elliot Finer, and it has the advantage of Whitehall's most modern government office.

The Government's own offices, in fact, provide a good example of the problems and opportunities faced by the energy manager of a large commercial company. Many are old and were built to a comparatively basic standard. They are occupied by large numbers of people, whose jobs mean they move from room to room with consequent scope for lights being left on, doors and windows being left open, and unoccupied rooms being overheated.

Previously all the office stock was administered by the Property Services Agency (PSA). But the PSA is being partly privatized and every government department will be responsible for its bills. This will make it easier to identify areas where there is scope for saving energy.

Finer says: "One of the problems about encouraging energy



Dr Elliot Finer outside the Energy Efficiency Office, which he runs. It is lit by low-energy light bulbs

The light touch to save, save . . .

efficiency is that it has often been difficult to quantify the savings made and use them as an example for other companies. We have now built up considerable data."

Good housekeeping is still an effective way to save energy. Companies have found several new ways to motivate staff to cut energy waste. Simple things, such as lights that go off automatically when a room is unoccupied or when natural light increases, but which have to be switched on manually, now save commercial users money.

Another area the department is considering is air-conditioning. It

has found that some systems use three times as much energy as others to pump air around, simply because the air ducts are badly designed, and that often air does not need to be chilled, merely pumped around a building.

The Energy Efficiency Office is aware that such bodies as the Commons Energy Select Committee have criticized the Government's record on energy-efficiency spending, but it points out that its budget is only the start of the spending.

Research into new types of jet engines, for instance, is primarily intended to improve efficiency

and cut fuel use, but that spending is classed as technical research and development. Spending by the Department of Health and Social Services on home-improvement grants could also be classed as spending on energy efficiency. Department of Employment spending on community insulation projects as part of the employment training programme is also seen as an effective investment in energy efficiency.

The department found that one large user of gas was keeping molten metal liquid while it prepared moulds that in the past had to be used as soon as they were

It has been difficult to quantify savings and use them as an example for other companies'



Peter Morrison, Energy Minister

ready, but which now can be prepared and filled as soon as the metal has melted. Thus the company made big savings.

The aim of the best practice programme is to advance the spread of good practice in energy efficiency by providing independent authoritative advice and information on energy efficiency. It is a collaborative programme targeted at energy-users and decision-makers in industry, commerce, the public sector and housing. Its four main elements are:

- Energy consumption guides that provide data to enable energy-users to establish their own relative energy efficiency.

- Good practice guides and case studies, which give independent information on proven energy-saving measures and techniques and what they are achieving.

- New practice projects, which provide independent monitoring of new energy-efficiency measures.

- Future practice research-and-development support which helps to develop tomorrow's energy-efficiency good practice measures.

The project also supports 75 local energy management groups through the EEO's regional offices. These groups, made up of energy managers and others who have an interest in energy efficiency, can provide contact with people in similar lines of work who can focus on related problems and give work-related advice.

David Young is The Times Energy Correspondent.

Government faces a powerful lobby

More pressure will be placed on the Government to save energy by a new body that promises to be a strong lobbying group — the National Energy Efficiency Association.

The association, two months old, consists of energy managers in local authorities, government bodies, private enterprise and other organizations with a stake in energy efficiency. It has between 180 and 200 members and is aiming for 300 by the end of the year.

It was launched with a champagne lunch at a heating and ventilation exhibition at Olympia, London, in November. But the festive atmosphere of its founding did not obscure the serious aims of promoting the value of energy management, setting up links between people in the energy business, drawing up a code of practice, and encouraging efficiency and conservation to protect the environment.

The association will try to persuade the Government to formulate an energy policy, incorporating a code of practice.

Ann Coney, energy manager of Bromley Borough Council in Kent and chairman of the association, says: "The code of practice is of primary importance. Some of our European counterparts have already gone down that road."

"It would involve the labelling of appliances, telling customers how energy-efficient they are and how much they cost to run. Buildings would have an energy rating so that you would know how much it costs to run them. If you were selling a house you would give it an energy score out of 10."

"The United States has a code of practice and there are penalties for buildings that are energy-inefficient."

Some European countries impose a tax on the owners of buildings that waste energy, and Coney points out that the 55mph speed limit in the US is the result of pressure for energy conservation.

Coney, who is also chairman of the London Boroughs Energy Management Group, says the Government could introduce incentives to encourage energy conservation, including subsidies for appliances that are approved as efficient.

But she says: "The policy must be driven more by environmental



Coney: a code of practice is vital

considerations than economic ones."

Her association has a structure of committees dealing with membership, education and training, marketing and public relations, and finance, and it has established regional groups throughout Britain.

Its programme this year will include appearances at all the heating and ventilation exhibitions in Britain, at which it will be sponsored by Tread, the energy controls equipment manufacturer, and seminars throughout the country.

The seminars will doubtless offer two pieces of advice that Coney gives when she speaks to local groups. When ironing, women should always do the items needing lower temperatures first as this reduces the amount of energy used. And turning down the central heating thermostat by 1°C cuts the bill by 10 per cent.

Brian Collett

Ann Coney may be contacted at 01-313 4560.

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To find out how such case histories can help you, please contact your Regional Energy Efficiency Officer.

Or call Carole Castle on 01-273 0690.

Energy Efficiency Office
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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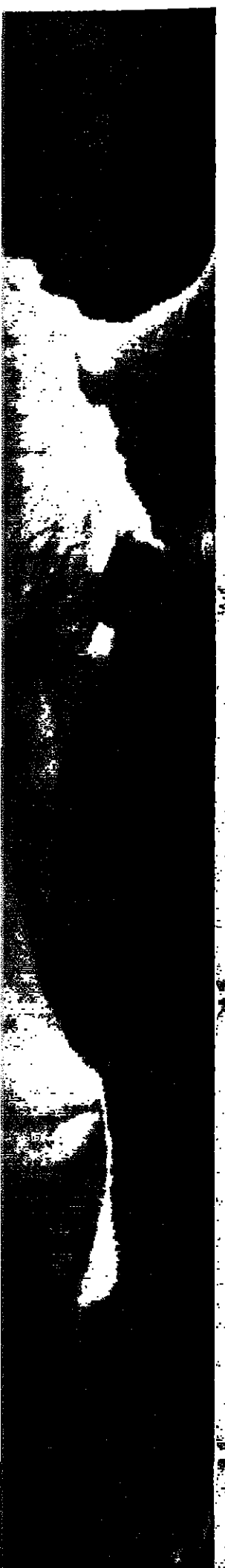


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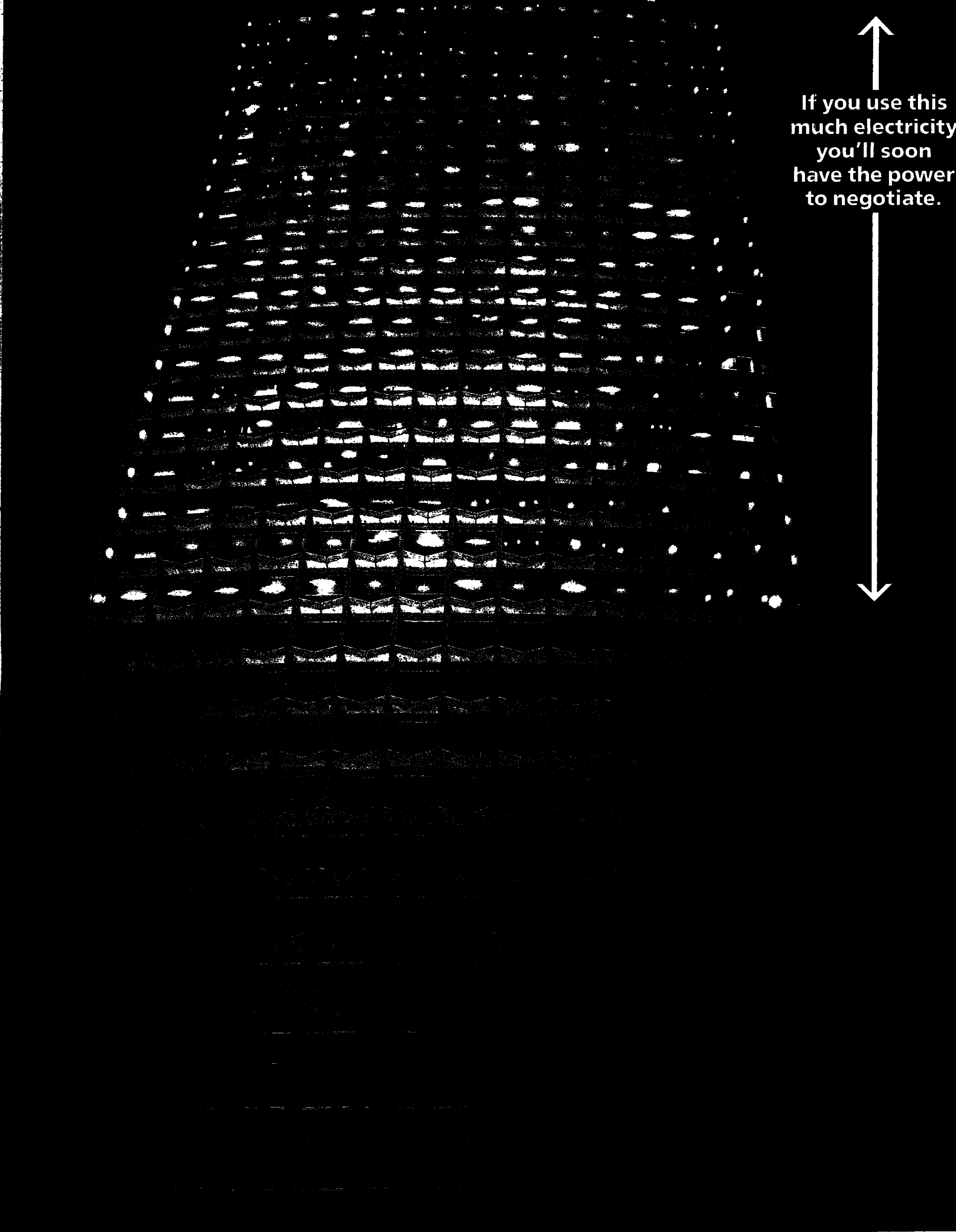
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and seminars throughout the
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The seminars will double
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energy used. And turning down
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Brian Collet

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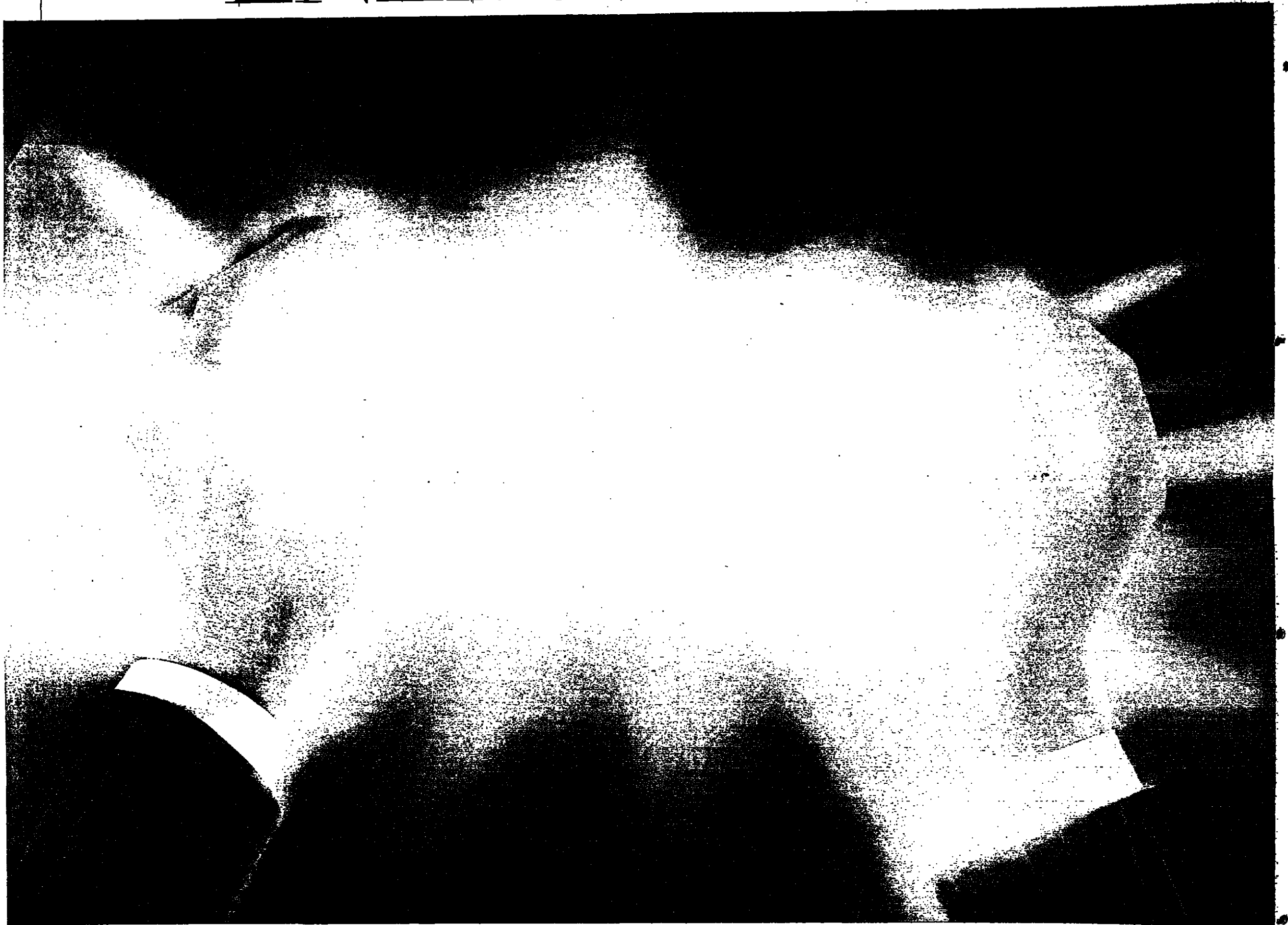
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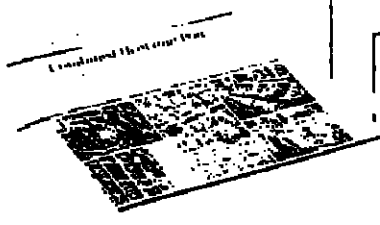
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Save energy and Earth

The Government's war on wasted energy in industry and at home is helping to clean up the world, David Young reports



John Wakeham, the Energy Secretary: "I regard improved energy efficiency as an immediate priority"

The Government's commitment to energy efficiency has been challenged frequently by its opponents as half-hearted and under-funded, but the Department of Energy points out that it is people, not expensive advertising, who can save energy and save themselves money.

John Wakeham, the Energy Secretary, was one of industry's most successful accountants before moving into politics and is well aware of the huge savings that can be made if people are properly motivated to save energy. He is also aware that an annual budget of at least £15 million to promote energy efficiency is hardly underfunding. His approach, therefore, is to build on the foundations laid by his predecessors, who instigated large-scale promotional campaigns to inform everyone that energy savings could be made.

Wakeham says: "I have made it quite clear that I regard improved energy efficiency as an immediate priority. The necessary technology is already in place so that action can be taken by industry and commerce now. And energy efficiency has the triple advantage that it can save money, conserve existing energy resources and thereby reduce environmental pollution, all at the same time."

"I am convinced that past experience has clearly shown that cost remains the biggest single influence on the efficiency with which energy is used. Since the first oil price shock in 1973, for example, the western world has learned to consume substantially less energy per unit of production."

"There are obvious advantages in a market system in which energy saving achieves its own financial reward and people are motivated by their own self-interest. But I also accept that in the present situation of relative energy surplus — and, of course, oil prices remain well below their

level of four years ago — the existing market may not be sending the right signals about the true costs of our energy consumption to the wider environment.

"This is a problem we still have to find ways of tackling."

Wakeham has little doubt that finding ways of reflecting the real costs is the way forward. "Not the least of the virtues of the legislation to privatize the electricity industry is that the gradual injection of competition will put greater pressure on the competing generating companies than existed under the previous structure, to make the most efficient and economic use possible of their energy resources."

Wakeham has given the director-general of the Office of Electricity Regulation the statutory duty to see that the competing companies in the privatized electricity industry promote and encourage energy efficiency and fix financial penalties for companies that do not comply.

He says: "The early fruits of the introduction of competition into

the industry are already being seen with the announcement that the first major long-term contract to be signed between an area board, NORWEB, and an independent generator, Lakeland Power."

"We also know of a range of other potential projects, many involving schemes for the construction of cleaner gas-fired power stations designed to run combined cycle turbines. Combined heat and power schemes are being encouraged, as are the development of new cleaner coal-burning technologies. I believe that the vigorous competition and experimentation that is already developing in the industry can only be of help to our environment."

While the Government targets the large industrial users of power to make sure they are fully aware of the potential savings from the new equipment and techniques constantly being developed, the domestic user and the house-builders are also being encouraged to save more.

"Saving energy is vital, not only because it saves industry and the consumer money and conserves precious finite energy resources,

but also because it offers one of the most effective means of reducing environmental pollution and the threat of global warming," Wakeham says.

"I believe that a greater emphasis on more efficient housing can begin to play an increasingly important role in tackling the greenhouse effect. It is the shape of things to come, precisely because the world is standing on its head the old assumption that you have to use progressively more energy to grow richer and increase human welfare. The reverse is becoming increasingly true."

"These lessons are now being more widely learnt in the UK. As new homes built to higher energy performance standards demonstrate the kind of savings that are possible, they seem certain to exercise a growing influence on the rest of the existing housing stock, and ultimately on our total energy consumption."

"For me, the really exciting thing about current projects which are being partially supported by funds from my department's Energy Efficiency Office, is that they demonstrate clearly that this country's leading house-builders recognize that a sharp improvement in energy efficiency is becoming an increasingly important factor in the future of the construction industry."

How to give up burning money

The fact that Shell and BP, two of the largest producers of energy in the world, have both established subsidiaries in the UK to provide contract energy management is an indication that there is money to be made by saving energy as well as producing it.

Companies such as BP Energy and Shell's Emstar have joined established specialists such as Ineco in providing the expertise and the funding which is enabling an increasing number of commercial companies, local authorities and area health authorities to take advantage of recently relaxed government guidelines to achieve big savings in the energy bills and re-equip with more modern and more efficient plant and equipment.

Under contract energy schemes, the specialist companies take over the provision of the client's energy needs, invests its own money and technical resources in the project and share the savings with the client, so no additional funding is required. Initially, there was Treasury opposition because it was felt that local authorities were using such schemes to get around public sector spending restrictions. However, new guidelines have been issued which now allow these organizations to share in the opportunities provided by Contract Energy Management (CEM), provided that the contract is structured to contain a significant element of service from the CEM company and is not simply a way of raising finance for investment in plant and equipment.

Indeed, such is the Government's new regard for CEM companies that many Whitehall offices in the next few years are expected to have their heating and other energy needs supplied by CEM. Ineco, founded in Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire, in 1968, is now negotiating to add Hull health authority and Croydon health authority to its list.

Geoff Smith, chief executive of Ineco Energy, is among those who argue that cheap energy in the past few years has lulled some companies into a sense of false security and that Britain must save more energy before it is too late.

He says: "Whether by creating a major potential shortage of energy or by compounding the greenhouse effect due to emissions from fossil fuel burning equipment, we are in the process of building potentially the worst crisis for the human race during its history. And yet we press wildly on — tomorrow it will be someone else's problem. But the technology exists today to make major reductions in energy use without adversely affecting our life-styles in any way."

"The obstacles which prevent our major energy consumers from taking action are finance and credibility. With heavy competition for available capital, energy-saving schemes are often relegated to a low priority against schemes for modernizing production. The potential savings quoted by manufacturers and consultants are also regarded with considerable suspicion, further increasing the reluctance

to commit other resources to the project.

"With available manpower cut to the limit there is often a lack of time or expertise available either to implement the scheme or to operate it to maximum efficiency once it has been installed. Many excellent schemes have failed because the time has not been available to run the scheme properly after installation."

CEM, Smith argues, can provide the answers to all these problems. The CEM company invests its own money and technical resources to ensure the project is executed and operated efficiently and effectively. The savings generated are then shared over the contract period in a way which repays the capital investment, interest and operating charges and then benefits both parties in a fair way.

"It is true that this approach will not yield the same savings to the client as with a directly financed scheme, but against this must be weighed the fact that all the risk of the savings

actually being achieved lies with the CEM company," Smith says. "The client can not lose even if the savings are not achieved."

One of Ineco's earliest scheme was Bowker Brothers, an East Lancashire manufacturer of kitchen and bathroom furniture. The agreement is now over three years old and is proving profitable for both parties. The basis scheme meant replacing an old oil-fired steam boiler with high-efficiency localized warm air and radiant heating, coupled to a computerized energy management control system.

This allowed heating to be controlled accurately for both time and temperature for localized areas. So successful was the initial contract that when the company decided to expand two years ago, Ineco was asked to provide and finance the heating for the new plant.

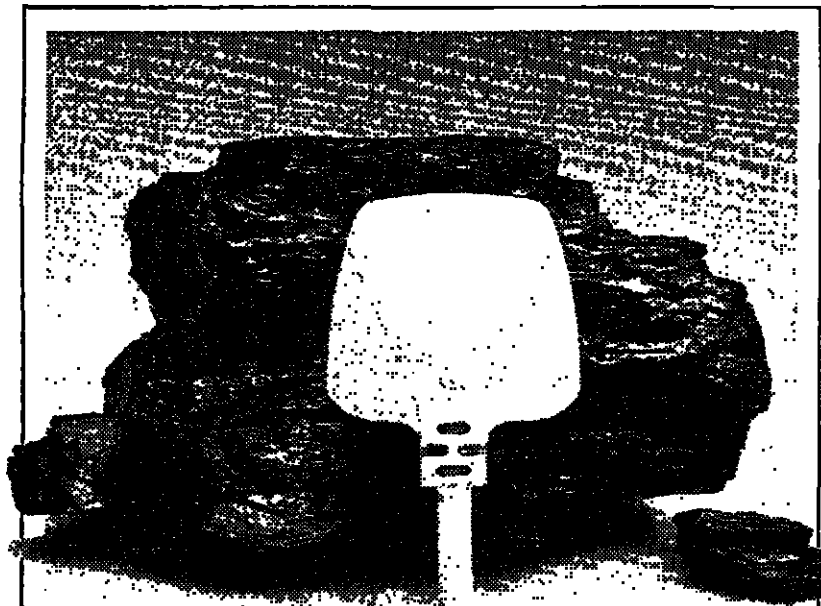
Of the ending of restrictions in the local authority market, Smith says: "While this opens up a large new market, there is a need for a positive and constructive approach. This is not what CEM is about. The concept must be a true and desirable partnership designed to benefit both sides in a spirit of joint co-operation if it is to work."

The first public contract to be signed by Ineco under the new Treasury guidelines was with Lancashire county council for a new scheme in Blackburn town centre. Buildings, including the technical college, police station and library had been heated by a centrally located old gas-fired steam boiler, with controls throughout the various buildings supplied with heat.

Under the contract, Ineco has spent £350,000 in replacing the old boiler with a smaller, more efficient unit and a computerized control system. The new equipment has now been working for over a year and, at the end of the seven-year contract period, the county council will inherit an efficient plant with all the savings then going directly to the ratepayers.

David Young

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WAKE UP TO THE NEW AGE OF

British COAL

After several years of cutting energy wastage, Britain is again falling behind the level of other countries, Andrew Warren writes

The global forecast: getting warmer

If Britain's Energy Secretary, John Wakeham, says, energy efficiency is the "single most cost-effective response" to the battle against global warming, a key measure that establishes whether or not we are winning this battle must be the amount of energy efficiency investment taking place.

Are we then succeeding? Look at the record. Until 1983, Britain's efforts were considered to be deplorable — "at the bottom of the international energy efficiency league", according to the then Energy Secretary. But in the mid-1980s, Britain's record improved dramatically.

In 1986, the International Energy Agency (IEA) calculated that in the ratio of energy consumption to gross domestic product, Britain had moved to sixth place among its European Community partners. The Government was able to boast that our rate of improvement at that stage was better than the European average (although in absolute terms we were still below West Germany, France, Scandinavia and The Netherlands).

It is these IEA figures which have often been trotted out

lately, at Energy Minister's Question Time and Prime Minister's Question Time. The Prime Minister delights in adding that since 1973 Britain has succeeded in producing 26 per cent more output, while reducing the amount of energy used by 4 per cent.

In 1986, the energy efficiency industry had its most successful year of sales ever, despite the halving of oil prices in the February of that year — which classical economists would argue should have diminished demand.

Britain used to be 'at the bottom of the international energy efficiency league' — but its record improved dramatically

Members of the Association for the Conservation of Energy (ACE), for which I work, estimated that sales had increased by up to 5 per cent because of the co-ordinated effort that took place during 1986 Energy Efficiency Year. However, 1986 standards are not enough. Last year, ACE asked scientists from the Government's Building Research Establishment and the University of Sussex to estimate what would happen to pollution levels if we kept on investing in energy efficiency at the same rate over the next 15 years.

The answer was bleak. To begin to stabilize the climate, levels of carbon dioxide (the main greenhouse gas) need to be reduced by 20 per cent. Conversely, business as usual will deliver increases in carbon-dioxide emissions of at least 20 per cent. Indeed, subsequent government forecasts suggest rises of between 28 and 34 per cent.

question, is the success of 1986 being built on, or is it evaporating? The answer is: "No".

Over the past three years, the picture has altered drastically, with many parts of the energy efficiency market stagnating, then declining.

I serve also as the chairman of the Buildings Energy Efficiency Confederation, a grouping of the leading trade associations in the buildings sector. For some years, each association has filed quarterly sales returns to the Department of Energy, so it could be in no doubt as to the true state of the market. When times were good, energy ministers took to crowing about the figures.

Recently, there has been little noise; the figures are unfavourably awful, and give the lie to any claims that we stand any chance of reaching the carbon-dioxide-savings targets in existing circumstances.

Sales returns read:
● Cavity wall insulation: down 16.65 per cent in the first six months of 1989 (after a static 1987 and 1988). Within this, the market for individual homes is down a further 7.1 per cent (after a 25



Andrew Warren with energy-saving lamp: Britain is likely to be producing more carbon-dioxide emission than previously

per cent decline in 1988); that for larger contracts is down 10.45 per cent.

● Draughtproofing: on average, down 15 per cent.
● Loft insulation: down by an average 7 per cent; declining fast.
● Double glazing: almost 20 per cent down.
● Heating and ventilating

control equipment (domestic): annual rate down 6 per cent (last six months down 10 per cent). Currently forecasting a decline of 12 per cent.
● External wall insulation: down 6 per cent.
● Commercial: static, after some buoyancy.
Each sector report forecasts

a continuing market decline in 1990, if present circumstances prevail.

This must not be permitted. Britain produces 3 per cent of the world's carbon-dioxide emissions, with 1 per cent of the world's population. As that population grows, we could find ourselves producing 4 per cent of carbon

dioxide, with only 0.75 per cent of the world's population. Global warming will worsen. And Prime Minister's Question Time could become an infinitely less positive event for the party in power, which would never do.

● The author is director of the Association for the Conservation of Energy.

The privatized generating industry may provide the spur to better care of our resources

Though there are concerns in some quarters that Britain will suffer an energy gap in the next decade because of its decision to impose a moratorium on nuclear-power development, some experts are equally convinced that the gap will easily be filled by more efficient use of what we already produce.

Could it be that in the 1990s energy conservation and efficiency will in reality become Britain's fifth fuel, with the competition created by a privatized power industry providing the spur? At present, more than 100 new

Power world to the rescue

power generation schemes are being considered by the companies that will be created after privatization and by new companies, which see privatization providing them with a secure and reliable return on the substantial investments they plan.

The key to their success will be producing energy and distributing it to customers as efficiently as possible and husbanding their primary energy sources in such a way as to get

the maximum amount of energy from every unit of gas, lump of coal or drop of oil they burn.

A dozen gas-fired power stations have now reached the planning application stage, and orders for plant and equipment are being placed. The key to their success is the new breed of combined cycle turbines that generate power then use their exhaust gases to produce steam, which is fed

into another set of turbines. The result is that raw energy, which was previously wasted, is converted to electricity, which is in turn supplied to area boards. These bodies will now have a statutory duty to see that that energy is used as efficiently as possible.

In addition, British Coal is rushing ahead with the development of its clean coal-burning furnaces for use at main-power stations, which it will build at suitable pits.

They will have the opportunity for providing power at efficiency rates previously undreamed of in the coal industry. The coal will travel only yards from the coal face instead of being constantly and expensively loaded and unloaded and often making long journeys to the power stations.

It will be burned by methods which will use every last ounce of energy from it — a use can even be found for the fine ash it will produce — and the temperatures which will be achieved means that harmful emissions are cut to an absolute minimum.

The first of these coal-fired power stations is to be built at

Billshorpe Colliery in Nottinghamshire in a joint venture between British Coal and the East Midlands Electricity Board. Future developments will also be carried out as joint ventures.

The generating industry is also taking another look at combined-heat-and-power

which is determined to maintain its dominance in the home-heating and the industrial-heat market. In this, it has been helped by the lifting of a European Commission ruling that required gas to be used only as a premium fuel. Though Britain interpreted this directive scrupulously, other countries within the EC used the availability of cheap and secure supplies of gas to support some sectors of their industry.

The use of gas in power stations, particularly the modern high-technology plant which can use the heat produced by the generating equipment, is now being encouraged, especially as gas is one of the cleanest fuels available and makes little contribution to the greenhouse effect once burnt.

British Gas is now taking on the electricity boards head-on and promoting a series of highly efficient plants which can use conventional engines or turbines to give a company its own electricity supply and heat for other industrial processes. Many companies are finding that by installing such plants, they are gaining an almost free electricity supply by burning only marginally more gas than they were using for heat generation in the past.

David Young



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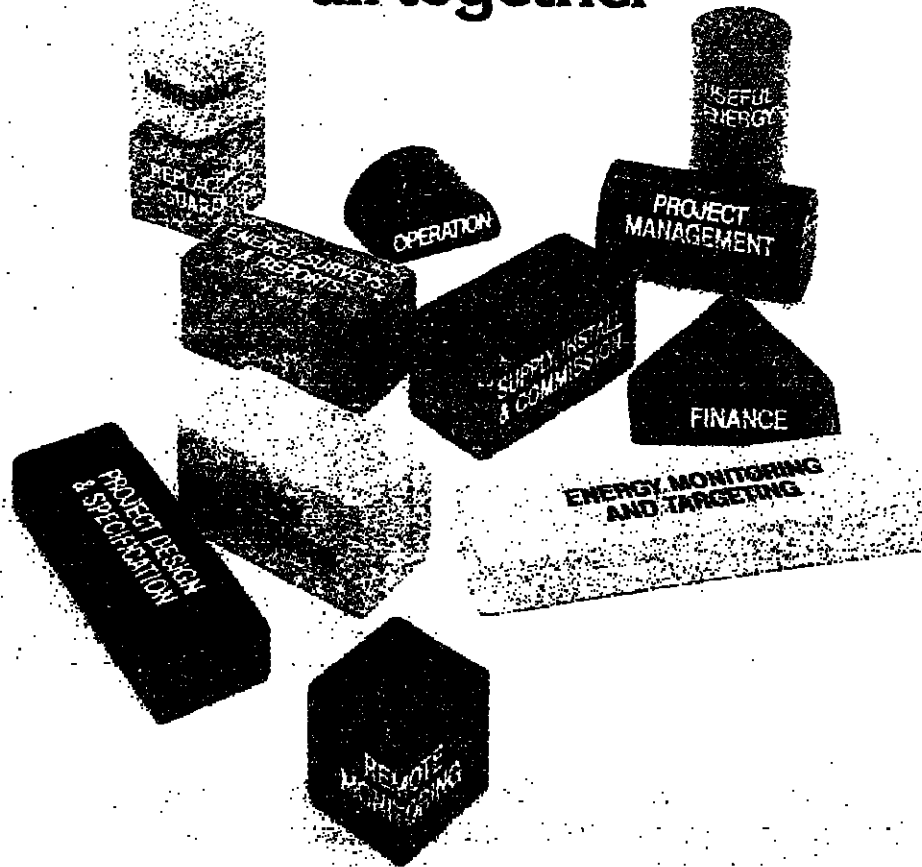
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RECYCLING THE RUBBISH

Some of Britain's newest combined heat and power schemes will burn council refuse (David Young writes). Such schemes are also attractive to large companies because they will be able to produce electricity and heat for their factories by a method not liable to the levy that will be charged on some conventional power producers to contribute towards the existing nuclear-power programme. National Power, the bigger of the two generating companies to be created from the former Central Electricity Generating Board, is itself using rubbish-derived fuel pellets at its Bold coal-fired power station at St Helens, Lancashire. The pellets are being burned for a month-long trial period.

If successful, the experiment will be continued and up to 450 tonnes of rubbish pellets a week will be burnt, producing as much energy as 225 tonnes of coal.

Bold has been selected for the test because it has comparatively small boilers, which can be closely monitored. And there are large sources of council waste in the area, which can be processed into pellets to be mixed with coal.

Existing council waste is also being used by many companies to generate power and the requirement on the area electricity boards to have a fixed percentage of their power produced from non-fossil and renewable energy sources has added impetus to such developments.

Typical of these are the scheme now being considered by NORWEB, the northern electricity supplier. In its study showed that NORWEB could eventually produce some of its power needs if it harnessed the winds that sweep the north-west, and utilized the natural forces produced by local rivers and streams.

The winds, and the rivers, of the north-west could still be harnessed

run-up to privatization it decided to look at the natural resources in its area to see whether it could use them to produce energy efficiently and conserve other resources.

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Savings begin in the home

The Government is considering the introduction of energy-efficiency standards as Britain outstrips the rest of the world in consumption.

David Rudnick finds out why

Energy-guzzling domestic appliances waste an enormous, if unquantifiable, amount of power. They also add to the greenhouse effect by emitting carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

In an uncompromising report, *Setting Standards for Energy Efficiency*, published last October, the environment lobby Friends of the Earth claimed that 90 per cent of appliances in British homes would be outlawed if American energy-efficiency requirements were introduced here.

In 1987, the United States brought in minimum efficiency (or maximum energy consumption) standards for a range of new domestic appliances. Between 70 and 90 per cent of the models available in the shops in 1986 will be "outlawed" when the standards come into force in 1992.

Researchers at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories in California estimate that the new law will result in a saving of 21,000 megawatts (MW) of peak electricity demand by the year 2000, cutting American energy consumption by 6 per cent.

And saving consumers at least \$3.8 billion (£2.3 billion) a year. American conditions cannot be applied to Britain or Europe generally, but there is a growing feeling that standards of energy efficiency should be much more stringent here.

Friends of the Earth claims that technologies exist to reduce UK electricity demand by 70 per cent during the next 15 to 20 years while maintaining or even improving the services. But these technologies are not widely used, and because consumers are not energy-conscious, energy-saving appliances are not widely stocked by retailers.

More and better information about the efficiency quotient of household appliances is on the way. A voluntary agreement was recently concluded by the European Committee of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Equipment (CECED) to harmonize the presentation of energy-saving data across the European Community. Virtually all EC appliance manufacturers are members of CECED, and the new agreement covers all the main appliances, such as fridges and freezers, washing-machines, tumble-driers, dishwashers and electric ovens. But this does not go far enough for Friends of the Earth and other lobbyists, including the Association for the Conservation of Energy. The association's director, Andrew Warren, believes that short-term commercial considerations remain paramount, to the detriment of long-term ecological or energy-saving objectives. He says British Gas, for instance, claims to be concerned about energy conservation but "you've got salesmen worried about meeting targets and concerned that if too many energy-efficient systems are sold, British Gas will end up selling too few therms".

Consumers can be equally short-sighted. About 11.5 million British homes use gas-fired central heating. About 830,000 new systems are installed annually, but fewer than 1 per cent of customers buy the more expensive gas condensing boilers, even though they are about 15 to 20 per cent more efficient and emit 30 per cent less pollution than the conventional variety.

Warren accepts that it is hard for the average householder to calculate the probable pay-back period on an energy-saving appliance; he thinks consumers need "a

price incentive to help equalize the cost difference, to get people to invest in order to save". But investment in energy-saving equipment, he says, actually fell by 12 per cent between September 1988 and September 1989.

The Department of Energy is campaigning to increase public awareness of energy conservation, but in Brussels the European Commission is pushing for mandatory rather than voluntary energy-saving standards. The sense of urgency is shared by the EC Select Committee of the House of Lords, which last April endorsed the view that upgrading information about products' energy-saving properties is not enough. In evidence to the Lords, Friends of the Earth suggested that an average 75 per cent saving on energy use is possible across the range of household appliances, and that the average energy efficiency of UK domestic appliances is well below the best mass-produced models available in Europe.

In West Germany, for instance, AEG's Arctic Jumbo upright freezer uses less electricity than a 60 watt light bulb, and AEG's de-



High and dry: Creda's product design director Brian Cornelius and the new energy-efficient tumble drier

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Putting controls together

British designers are applying their skills to develop user-friendly systems for householders to control and manage their heating, lighting and security appliances while at home and even when many miles from home.

With 1992 in mind, and the potential of a huge single European market, appliance makers Creda, of Stoke-on-Trent, in Staffordshire, are well advanced with Credacnet, an integrated home system that uses a central control unit to send signals through existing house wiring to transceiver units in every appliance or piece of equipment, or from a separate unit in place of the standard mains plug.

Various operations and options for automatic control may be selected by simply touching the touch panel integrated in the display unit. For example, the commands can programme the heating levels for various times of the day or check the security system.

Some of the functions can be carried out via a remote access unit linked to the national telephone system.

Programming can be automatic on a daily or weekly cycle to ensure that heating is run to maximize economy and efficiency.

All lighting can be controlled, including dimming and varying lighting levels throughout the house.

Special programmes can be stored to operate when it is unoccupied to give the impression that someone is at home and so discourage burglars.



Central control: new Credacnet

'Ninety per cent of appliances in British homes would be outlawed in America'

UK, too. At Creda, which belongs to the same group as Hotpoint, product design director Brian Cornelius says it has developed a condensing tumble-drier that extracts moist air from the clothes and passes it through a heat exchanger; the discharged warm, dry air prevents condensation in the drier and warms the kitchen. Creda exports 25 per cent of its output to Europe.

The lack of an international standard for measuring energy efficiency complicates comparison of the running costs of British and other European appliances. Jim Collis, director of the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances, criticizes Friends of the Earth for "not comparing like with like".

If, for example, German fridges and freezers frequently come with more insulation, it is because a harsher climate and a bigger risk of lengthy power cuts impose a greater need for it. In general, Collis says, appliances everywhere are becoming much more responsive, consuming only the amount of energy needed for a task.

Meanwhile, the UK Department of Energy's efficiency office has initiated a study of the energy efficiency of domestic electrical appliances. Due for completion later this year, it is concentrating on potential improvements and options for government action.

Keeping Britain warm in winter is costing the earth

Competition heats up between gas and coal for home appliances

Energy efficiency begins at home. Up to 28 per cent of Britain's energy resources are used domestically, so home heating appliances that save energy significantly affect the nation's fuel bill.

The boiler is easily the biggest energy guzzler in the house, well over half of the average fuel bill is accounted for by central heating and hot water. The Department of Energy's Efficiency Office emphasizes the inefficiency of having an over-sized boiler, so if one's house insulation has been improved it would be wise to invest in a more up-to-date, lower-output boiler.

Modern boilers use less fuel to produce the same amount of heat as older models, so replacing a boiler that is 10 or more years old can cut the domestic fuel bill by about 10 per cent, the Energy Department estimates.

The most modern and efficient type of boiler available is the gas condensing boiler; its efficiency remains high even when working at a low output level. Its more cost-effective performance is achieved by extracting more heat from the waste flue gases by allowing them to condense in the boiler. Buying a new gas condensing boiler makes particular sense in a medium to large house where the installation will be more quickly offset by savings on gas bills.

Typically the gas condens-

ing boiler has an operating efficiency of around 85 per cent, making it anything from 10 to 15 per cent more efficient than the conventional type. Not surprisingly it costs more, but its manufacturers claim its lower running costs enable the price difference to be recouped within three to four years. According to one manufacturer, Trisave, of Hinckley in Leicestershire, condensing boilers can offer 17 to 20 per cent more cost savings than a conventional modern boiler.

Another economical gas-fired appliance is the combination boiler, which combines the function of a conventional central-heating boiler and hot water cylinder by incorporating a small heat exchange cylinder within the boiler casing.

Thus it removes the cost of having to run both a cold water supply tank and a hot water cylinder. The absence of the latter means that the hot water system occupies less space and may well cost less to install.

Gas unquestionably has the lion's share of the home heating market; estimates vary from two-thirds to three-quarters or more, though well over 80 per cent of central heating systems are gas-fired.

Electricity is not generally perceived as price-competitive, and since it is highly unusual for homes to be converted from one power source to another, when

electricity is installed it is nearly always in new houses.

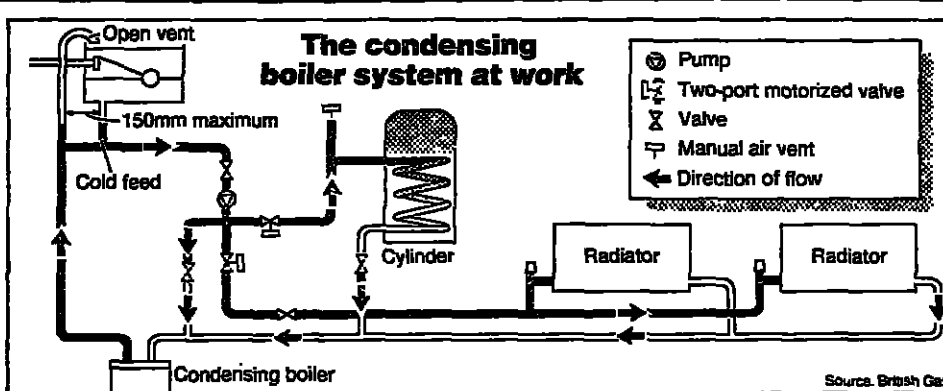
Nevertheless, new electrical appliances are challenging gas supremacy. Storage heaters, formerly known as night storage heaters — work by storing heat at night when electricity is at the cheap off-peak rate; the heat is released into a room during the following day and evening.

The Radelec boiler is the

'Image of coal as a domestic heating fuel has suffered'

latest innovation to be developed by the Electricity Council Research Centre in Chester. It is essentially a box of thermal storage bricks, rather like a storage radiator, which jets stored heat out of the bricks and into the hot water circuit through a primary steam circuit based within the boiler. The process involves very low heat loss from the boiler core. It is being licensed to Creda and Dimplex and is due to appear on the market this winter.

If electricity is challenging gas on its traditional home ground, gas is returning the compliment, attempting to break into markets such as domestic tumble-driers,



which electricity has monopolized until now. Last October, British Gas and Crosslee joined forces to introduce the White Knight tumble-drier, described by a BG spokesman as the first new domestic gas appliance to be launched for some time. Developed and manufactured by Crosslee, it is being sold by BG, which claims it is much more energy-efficient, and more than 70 per cent cheaper to run than a similar electrical model with the same heat input.

The image of coal as a domestic heating fuel has suffered from association with a grimy, smoke-stack industry, but now British Coal is fighting back with Coalflow, a range of solid fuel central heating boilers that dispense with the need for manual stoking, and offer refinements such as programmable control and automatic self-cleaning facilities at competitive running costs.

The Association for the Conservation of Energy still looks askance at King Coal as an environmental villain, who releases into the atmosphere 20 per cent more carbon dioxide than oil and 40 per cent more than gas. But as an industrial — if not a domestic — fuel, coal remains very much in the running. In the past few years more than 500 companies have installed coal-fired boiler systems.

David Rudnick

Simple way is best

One of the simplest ways to save energy — and visible to most of us as we gaze at the wind and rain outside — is the fitting of effective draught-proofing.

It is therefore surprising that there has not been a British Standard for draught-proofing products until this year.

The Draught Proofing Advisory Association views the new standard as an important step forward in terms of raising the quality and performance of products on the market with better results for the specifier and customer.

The association says the industry will inevitably gain from this move, which is expected to lead to a wider

market and increased sales. In the past sales have suffered because of the availability of some poor-quality products.

The standard specifies requirements for draught-stripping products to fit the common types of installed doors and windows not originally designed to incorporate draught-stripping, and covers wood and steel win-

dows, many of which could be up to 100 years old.

The new standards came at a time when the Secretary of State for Energy, John Wakeham, has introduced a new scheme of grants towards the cost of basic insulation in low-income homes in England, Scotland and Wales. Separate but broadly similar measures will be announced for Northern Ireland shortly.

David Young

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The Bursar is appointed by, and responsible to, the Governors, but the appointment will be essentially a member of the Headmaster's central team of management.

Salary will be based on qualifications and experience. Further details may be obtained on application in writing to: The Headmaster, Brentwood School, Ingrave Road, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8AS.

Candidates are asked to write, not later than January 31st, 1990, and enclosing a full C.V. with names of 2 referees to:

H.G. Ashton Esq.,
Chairman of the Governors,
Brentwood School,
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Ceramics and Glass
Fashion Menswear
Fashion Womenswear
Fashion Knitwear
Printed Textiles
Woven Textiles
Knitted Textiles
Embroidery
Metalwork and Jewellery

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Further particulars are available from the School Secretary, The Rickmansworth Masonic School, Chorleywood Road, Rickmansworth, Herts., WD3 4HF - Tel. (0923) 773168

GRESHAM'S SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

To be held on March 5th, 6th and 7th 1990. The following Scholarships are offered: OPEN - "The Edinburgh Scholarship" of up to 100% of fees. "The Fishmongers' Scholarship" of up to 100% of fees. One Fishmongers' Company Scholarship of £1,500 p.a. One Fishmongers' Company Scholarship with preference for Art or Music of £1,500 p.a. One Governors' Company Scholarship of £1,100 p.a. One Governors' Scholarship of £400 p.a. RESTRICTED - Up to two RESTRICTED County Scholarships are available annually. These are awarded to not more than two pupils per annum on entry to the Senior School. Parents must have resided in Norfolk for the previous five years. The value of the awards will not exceed a combined total of £1,200. Candidates must be under 14 on 1st April, 1990. Apply to the Registrar, Gresham's School, Holt, Norfolk, NR25 6EA. Closing date Monday February 12th 1990.

EDUCATION

Edited by David Tytler

The three-year college course is under threat from the Government, which wants students to finish their studies quickly, Sam Kiley reports

Losing the point
— by degrees

Like Burberry and Twin's Tea, the British degree has a certain cachet overseas. In the United States, the British graduates are noted less for what they know than for their ability to think fast.

The Government wants to see the number of students in higher education double over the next 25 years, but does not want to pay for it. Vice-chancellors, educationists and students fear that if the politicians' hopes and industry's needs are to be met, universities will have to change beyond recognition.

For 25 years, since the 1960s red-brick explosion of higher education, the consensus has been that a degree course was a time for a growing awareness, not only of oneself, but of the needs and views of others.

Education ministers are facing an almost insoluble problem. On the one hand, it is conservatively estimated by the Institute of Manpower Studies that the economy will need 30,000 more graduates by the end of the 1990s (at a time when the number of 18-year-

olds is to fall by a third), just to keep up with likely demands.

On the other hand is the often repeated statement of John MacGregor, the Education Secretary, that higher education cannot expect a greater share of Britain's wealth.

This attitude could spell the end of the British degree as we know it. The Universities Funding Council has already said institutions should consider introducing a two-year degree as a way to push larger numbers of students through the system at little extra cost.

In addition, some university heads believe that as students are forced to contribute more money to their education via a student loans scheme — and eventually tuition fees — they may look to save money by staying at home and going to the nearest university or polytechnic. And this can pose problems. Every morning, as she waits for her bus in Clifton, Glasgow, which will deliver her 45 minutes' later to Strathclyde University, Louise Orr has good reason to question the merits of having to stay at home while

studying. She explains: "Those of us who stay at home undergo a graying process. A nine-to-five syndrome sets in and we find it difficult to take part in university life. On campus the library is just across from where you are staying. If you live at home, there is often parental pressure to be home for dinner... it would be disastrous to have a boy or girl friend and bring them home."

"It is garbage to suggest that students would prefer to stay at home," says Louise, who on the day she was interviewed was skipping class to babysit her sister.

Her parents — father a detective chief inspector, mother a teacher — will not add to the £300-a-year grant she receives from her local authority. Sixty-five per cent of the 8,000 students at Strathclyde are "home-based". Being short of cash, they must, like Louise, stay at home for the free food and accommodation.

The only university that crams all the hours set aside for a three-year degree into two years is the privately run Buckingham University. Defenders of the quick



Away from her studies: Strathclyde University student Louise Orr helps her 11-year-old sister Suzanne route to a BA or BSc say that those who cannot afford to take two years out of mainstream life, such as mature students and parents, will be more likely to go to college if the course is shorter. Jon Taylor, like Louise, is 20. He never intended to go to university, but after a year as a solicitor's clerk in Southampton, he was offered articles — for which he needed a degree. "We are more motivated here to get on and get out," says Jon who, as a scholar at Buckingham, gets 90 per cent of the £6,500 a year tuition fees paid for him as well as a full grant from his local authority. A two-year course would mean that students get just 10 weeks off a year, compared to the four or five months now common.

least four years. Education is not about getting through courses in the shortest possible time. Over three years, young people become more mature and intelligent. If you were to squeeze this into two years, it would no longer be a university education.

"Extra-curricular activities are crucial. Top industrialists are less interested in what the students study, than in what they have been doing with their spare time. They want to know if a prospective employee has been able to run something — a newspaper, a society," Saul, who took his first degree at Birmingham, the nearest institution to his home, adds: "I spent an enormous amount of time travelling back and forth to the university."

Professor Ted Wragg, director of the school of education at Exeter University, says: "At 20, after two years at university, the graduates would be producing would be rather immature — not yet able to understand the implications of what they are reading."

"One of the characteristics of Britain being able to get away with only three years for an honours degree, compared with the European four-year or five-year course, is that we have students from all walks of life and a variety of backgrounds. British graduates are valued because they are more able to think for themselves than others and this is derived from the premium put on individuality, which means getting away from home and having time to think things through."

The real weight of parent power in our schools will be felt this September when they will be given the right to choose the secondary school for their children. No longer will the local authority be able to decide for them.

The full impact of this change on the schools has yet to be realized. Early concerns have focused on the element of competition as heads and their deputies became aware that the ability to sell their schools could make all the difference between viability and decline. School brochures are being rapidly revised and senior members of staff are being given special responsibility for parental liaison.

Competition, however, will not be on even ground: the nature of a school's intake will determine its ability to generate funds from parents. The location of a school, as well as the attitude of local industry,

Parent power, school problems

The independent schools were the first to highlight the increased competition that schools will face after the Education Reform Act. It was pointed out that:

• If the National Curriculum is introduced effectively, it will raise standards of attainment.

• The flow of information on assessment and testing results to parents will involve them more closely in their children's education.

• The introduction of more management and budgetary powers for heads and governors, many of whom will also be parents, will enable schools to concentrate their resources on enhancing their own viability, particularly in raising the standards they can offer to prospective parents.

Mum and Dad have opted for a good old traditional, no nonsense, Education.



It is self-evident, though, that not all parents will be able to benefit from parental choice. Each school has a physical limit on its capacity to absorb more and more pupils: some parents are simply not interested in "shopping around" for schools; others are unable to take advantage of the right to choose, perhaps through lack of transport. There are, however, plenty of

motivation, their unwillingness to do the homework set for them and their lack of discipline not only blights their own education but have a disproportionate impact on the education of their fellow pupils.

Parents will become increasingly unwilling to tolerate the damage done by this minority to the education of their own children. Schools badly affected by such behaviour will have to take firm action on it, or remove those pupils from the school.

The lessons are clear: • Schools that concentrate upon marketing to the exclusion of all else will fail. Glossy brochures and the presence of articulate pupils and staff to show parents around schools are only part of the story. To pretend otherwise is to insult the intelligence of parents. • Schools that treat parents

as partners and value their support in achieving the goals set for their children will have a good chance of thriving.

• Schools that encourage parents to value education, motivate their children to want to learn and preach the "gospel of success" will themselves succeed.

Parents will have much more power, whether as parents choosing schools or as governors taking ultimate responsibility for the direction of schools. Schools will have to come to terms with the implications of "parent power" and understand that it might force them to re-think patterns of organization in a way considered impossible only a short while ago.

David Hart

• The author is general secretary of the National Association of Headteachers.

EDUCATIONAL

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FELLOWSHIPS

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

BRITISH PETROLEUM

FELLOWSHIP IN ECONOMIC AWARENESS

Applications are invited for this new teaching fellowship, available for two years to the first instance, but renewable for a total period of up to five years. Duties will involve designing and managing a programme on economic awareness for students throughout the University, most of whom will not be economics specialists.

Communications skills are essential. Applicants should preferably have a prior qualification in economics. The post may be of interest to those currently teaching economics at school, further or higher education level.

The appointment will be made within the salary range £10,458 - £20,469 per annum depending upon age and experience. The initial salary will be £11,800 - £15,000 per annum.

Further particulars (quoting reference number) may be obtained from the Registrar, University of Durham, Old Elvet, Durham, DH1 1TA, telephone (0191) 374 2938, to whom applications (three copies) should be sent, not later than 15th February 1990.

ST. ANNE'S COLLEGE OXFORD

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in Economics, to be filled from October 1990. The Fellowship is open to men and women, is for research in the field of Social Anthropology in Africa.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Registrar, St. Anne's College, Oxford, OX2 0SH, to whom applications should be sent, not later than 15th February 1990.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in Law, to be filled from October 1990. The post is open to men and women, is for research in the field of Law. Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Registrar, University of Manchester, M13 9PL, to whom applications should be sent, not later than 15th February 1990.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in Law, to be filled from October 1990. The post is open to men and women, is for research in the field of Law. Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Registrar, University of Nottingham, NG7 2RD, to whom applications should be sent, not later than 15th February 1990.

UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in Law, to be filled from October 1990. The post is open to men and women, is for research in the field of Law. Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Registrar, University of Stirling, FK9 4LA, to whom applications should be sent, not later than 15th February 1990.

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in Law, to be filled from October 1990. The post is open to men and women, is for research in the field of Law. Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Registrar, University of York, YO1 5DD, to whom applications should be sent, not later than 15th February 1990.

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The University of Hull

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Interested persons are invited to discuss the appointment with Mr R Smith, Dean of The Law School, on 0482 465735.

Written details are available from the Senior Personnel Officer, University of Hull, Hull, HU6 7RX (0482 465263) to whom applications, including CV and details of three academic referees, should be addressed.

Closing Date 20 February 1990.

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Senior Lectureships
in Law

Reference T/7

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Salary will be on the Lecturer A Scale (£12,108 - £17,022 pa incl), the Lecturer B Scale (£17,064 - £22,119 pa incl), or the Senior Lecturer Scale (£23,139 - £25,935 pa incl).

For an informal discussion, please contact Professor M Dockray in the Department of Law, telephone (01) 253 4399 ext 3300.

Further particulars and application forms for all posts are available from the Deputy Academic Registrar, City University, Northampton Square, London EC1V 0HB, Telephone (01) 253 4399, ext 3037.

Closing date for applications: 26th January 1990. We are an Equal Opportunities Employer

THE UNIVERSITY OF HULL

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

LECTURESHIPS/SENIOR

LECTURESHIPS IN ACCOUNTING

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR FIVE LECTURESHIPS IN ACCOUNTING to start on or before 1 October 1990. Three appointments will be on a continuing basis and two will be fixed-term for two years. Consideration may be given to fixed-term appointments at senior lecturer level. One of the continuing appointments is intended for new entrants to the university lecturer profession.

Candidates should have a good degree in accounting or a related subject and relevant teaching experience preferably in a university. An accounting qualification and/or professional experience will be an advantage. Applicants are invited from any specialist area of accounting or finance as the university offers a wide range of optional subjects within the accounting programme. However, for two of the posts, specialist skills in computing and finance are required.

Research activity is strongly encouraged and applications from persons with an interest in short periods of paid teaching overseas would be welcomed.

Current Lecturer salary range is £10,458 - £15,372 pa (Grade A), £16,014 - £20,469 pa and beyond (Grade B), £21,489 - £24,285 pa and beyond (Senior Lecturer). Progression from Grade A to B is the normal expectation. Salary review due 1 April 1990.

Research activity is strongly encouraged and applications from persons with an interest in short periods of paid teaching overseas would be welcomed.

Current Lecturer salary range is £10,458 - £15,372 pa (Grade A), £16,014 - £20,469 pa and beyond (Grade B), £21,489 - £24,285 pa and beyond (Senior Lecturer). Progression from Grade A to B is the normal expectation. Salary review due 1 April 1990.

Applications (6 copies or 1 from candidates overseas) by curriculum vitae together with details of 3 referees should be sent to the Senior Personnel Officer (Ref PM), University of Hull, Hull, HU6 7RX, from whom further particulars may be obtained (0482 465270). CLOSING DATE: 7 FEBRUARY 1990

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

ASSOCIATION WITH ST. ANNE'S AND ST. ANTHONY'S COLLEGES

UNIVERSITY LECTURESHIP IN CLASSICAL CHINESE

(In association with St. Anne's College)

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(In association with St. Anthony's College)

Applications are invited for these posts, both of which are tenable from 1 October 1990 or as soon as possible thereafter, stipend on the age-related scale currently £10,458 - £21,852.

The successful candidates for the posts may be offered fellowships at St. Anne's College (in the case of the post in Classical Chinese) and at St. Anthony's College (in the case of the post in Modern Chinese History).

Further particulars may be obtained from: Miss C.M. Godman, Secretary, Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies, The Oriental Institute, Pusey Lane, Oxford OX1 2LE, Telephone 0865 278210, Fax 0865 270708, to whom 10 copies of formal applications (one only from candidates overseas), naming three referees, should be sent not later than 1 March 1990. Applicants who wish to be considered for both posts should state this in their applications.

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Loughborough University

Department of Chemistry

LECTURESHIP IN ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in Organic Chemistry for appointment from 1 October 1990.

Candidates with research interests in any branch of organic chemistry will be considered.

Salary will be at an appropriate point on the Lecturer Grade A or Grade B scale (£10,458 to £20,469) depending on age and experience.

Further details and application forms are available from The Personnel Office, University of Technology, Loughborough, Leics. LE11 3TU, to whom applications with the names and addresses of 3 referees should be sent by 30 March 1990. Informal telephone enquiries should be directed to Professor C.J. Moody, telephone 0509 222550. Please quote Ref: 90/C/M

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

LECTURER IN GERMAN STUDIES

Applications are invited for the post, to be filled from October 1990, in the Department of German Studies from October 1990, which has been established under the UGC New Academic Appointments Scheme (NAPS). Candidates should have a special interest in modern German literature, culture and society. Salary will be on the Lecturer A scale (£10,458 - £17,022 p.a.). Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Registrar, The University, Manchester, M13 9PL, to whom applications should be sent, not later than 15th February 1990. The University is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

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SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST
Small, informal and friendly Property Company in Knightsbridge seeks a lively, intelligent and committed young Secretary to answer a simple switchboard plus some audio for a young Executive (will train). Accurate 35-40 wpm typing together with a pleasing personality. Call Vivienne King

KING & TOBEN

CHARTLEIGH
VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE!
An excellent opportunity arises when you join the up and coming Chartleigh. As Secretary to the Partner you will be involved in many tasks. You will get every opportunity to develop your skills in the day to day running of the office including co-ordination of meetings, organisation of company events and dealing with the press on a regular basis. For an immediate interview contact us on the number 01-486 6951.

KING & TOBEN

DECORATIVE SECRETARY
£12,000
Leading Interior Design/Decorating Co needs a Shorthand, WP Secretary to work for 2 Principals. In your 20s with some work experience, you will now seek total involvement and client contact - so here it is! Sun DRIVER & dog lover! Call Louise on 287-2944

Middleton Jeffers

CHILDRENS CHARITY
£13,000
West London based Charity that cares for Children at risk in the area needs a very special Secretary to take over the day-to-day running of their office. This key role requires good shorthand & typing in addition to 1st Class Admin skills. Only a caring person would be ideal. Call Alice on 287-2944

Middleton Jeffers

THE DUTCH HOUSE
307-308 HIGH HOLBORN, WC1V 7LR
on 01-430 2291
29-31 OXFORD ST, W1R 1RE
01-734 5675
14 GREAT CASTLE STREET, OXFORD CIRCUS, W1N 1LA
01-255 3140
43 BROMPTON RD, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, SW3 1DE
01-225 1777
36-44 MOORGATE, EC2R 6EL
01-638 7003

PA Secretary
for 2 Vice Presidents
We are an international management consultancy. We require a friendly, extremely efficient secretary in her late 20's to 30's with an excellent secretarial background. You should enjoy providing good support and will be given your own administrative responsibilities for co-ordinating our business school graduate recruitment programme. We offer a good salary for someone prepared to work hard. Our working day is 9-5 and you may be required to stay late occasionally. You will need to be a very good shorthand writer and a fast typist. There is a lot of telephone work so you will need to be articulate and be able to speak clearly. If you have management consultancy or graduate recruiting experience this would be advantageous.
Please send your CV marked 'PA vacancy' to:
The MAC Group
22 Grafton Street
London W1X 3LD
(No Agencies)

ACME
DIRECTORS SEC
£18,000 INC
A professional, confident person is needed to support 2 Directors, control a busy schedule and fully utilise your secretarial skills. Suit smart, outgoing person with a sense of humour. Banking exp not required. Benefits incl paid overtime, Bonus, BUPA, NCF etc. Mrs. Hayes, 01-247 9701 158 Bishops-Cleeve, E22

TEMP TO PERM
£12,500
Wine Co. seeks young and enthusiastic Receptionist/Sec with WP experience. A different, exciting and varied position.
Tel: 01 730 2212
Wendy Johnson
(REC. CONS.)

Continued From Previous Page

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

essex
Department of Accounting and Financial Management

As a consequence of a major expansion in accounting and management education and research the University is very pleased to invite applications for the following two additional posts:

Lectureship/Senior Lectureship in Management

This post is primarily associated with the University's established part-time MBA programme although there will also be opportunities to contribute to undergraduate teaching programmes. The successful candidate is likely to have teaching and research interests in one or more of the following fields: business strategy and policy, marketing, or management information systems. Applications are particularly welcome from candidates with a business school background who have both management teaching experience and entrepreneurial and organisational skills. This post is available initially for a three year period from 1 May 1990, or as soon as possible thereafter, renewable annually on a rolling three year basis (ref: S/O19).

Lectureship in Management Accounting/Financial Management

This post, which is tenable from 1 September 1990, is open to applicants with an interest in any area of accounting and financial management, although the Department would particularly like to appoint someone with teaching and research interests in management accounting, financial management or corporate finance. A professional accounting qualification is not essential for this post (ref: L/O20).

Salary will be on the scale for Senior Lecturer (£21,489-£24,285 per annum) or Lecturer A (£10,458 to £15,372 per annum) or Lecturer B (£10,014-£20,469 per annum).

Informal enquiries about both posts are encouraged and should be made to Professor Michael Sherer on (0206) 872762.

Applications in writing (10 copies), quoting the appropriate reference and including a curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees for the Senior Lectureship and two referees for the Lectureship, should be received by the Registrar (SL/1920/77), University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex CO4 3SQ by 9 February 1990. Further particulars of this post may be obtained by telephoning Colchester (0206) 872462 (24 hours).

THE UNIVERSITY OF HULL THE LAW SCHOOL LECTURESHIPS
Applications are invited for a number of continuing and fixed-term appointments in the Law School.
Applications will be considered in all fields of law but the School is particularly interested in applications offering Community Law, International Law and Common Law. Salaries in the range £10,458 - £20,469 p.a. Starting dates by negotiation.
Interested persons are invited to discuss the appointments with Mr R. Smith, Dean of the Law School, on 0482 465735.
Applications (6 copies or 1 from candidates overseas) by CV together with details of two academic referees should be sent to the Senior Personnel Officer (Ref PAH), University of Hull, HULL HU6 7RS, from whom further particulars may be obtained (0482 465770).
CLOSING DATE: 28 FEBRUARY 1990

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK Department of Engineering Chair in Mechanical Engineering

The Department of Engineering is of a unified type and has expanded significantly in the last few years. This is a newly-created Chair which is intended to strengthen the Department's fundamental mechanical science base.
The University is seeking to fill the position with someone who, as well as having a proven research record, must be prepared to provide academic leadership and encouragement to a young and enthusiastic staff with interests across a wide spectrum of engineering activities.
Although there is a preference for candidates with specific interests in fluid mechanics, other candidates with alternative relevant interests are encouraged to apply.
Further particulars are available from the Personnel Office, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL, (0203 523827) quoting Ref No 23/A/88/7 (please mark clearly on envelope). Closing date 9 February 1990.

UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG Chair of Law

Applications are invited for a Chair of Law in the Department of Law, tenable from September 1, 1990. Candidates with any field of legal interest relevant to the teaching of the Department are welcome to apply but the University expects an applicant to have considerable University experience and a distinguished record of scholarship. He or she should also have a higher degree in law.
The University would prefer to make a permanent appointment, but consideration may also be given to applications for appointment on fixed or secondment terms of not less than three academic years.
The University reserves the right not to fill the Chair or to fill the Chair by appointment or to make an appointment at a lower level.
Annual salary (superannuable) will be within the professional range, of which the minimum is HK\$518,520 and the average is HK\$641,400 (approx. £41,880 & \$1,310 respectively, sterling equivalent as at December 22, 1989). At current rates, salary tax will not exceed 15% of gross income. Housing at a charge of 7% of salary, children's education allowances, leave, and medical benefits are provided.
Further particulars and applications forms may be obtained from the Department of Law, University of Hong Kong, 7/F, University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam, Hong Kong (Fax: 8521-5582549). Closing 2 March 1990.

PREP & PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DOVER COLLEGE
(HMC Coeducational Boarding and Day School)
Entrance awards and bursaries available to boys and girls at 13+ and 16+
Also Government Assisted Places
Awards for younger pupils available at Junior School in Folkestone
For prospectus and further details write to:
The Headmaster, Gatehouse D, Dover College, Dover, Kent CT17 9RH or telephone 0304-205959

SPRATTON HALL SCHOOL (A.P.S.)

280 pupils 4-13 years
Required for September 1990, a recently qualified Teacher for general subjects with Maths preferred, for boys and girls aged seven to eleven.
The successful applicant will also be required to assist in the coaching of the School's main sports Rugby and Association Football, Cricket, Athletics and Swimming.
Also required to start September 1990, a Kindergarten teacher for 4/5 years olds in a new purpose designed pre-prep block.
Salaries BAKER Scale plus.
Applications in writing accompanied by Curriculum Vitae and addresses of two referees, should be sent to The Headmaster, Spratton Hall School, Spratton Northampton, NN6 9HP.

GOING, GOING, GONE!

THE AUCTION DEPARTMENT OF THE PRESTIGIOUS PROPERTY CONSULTANCY. A BRIGHT PERSON TO HELP ORGANISE AUCTIONS, CATALOGUES, CLIENTS, BALANCE, HOSPITALITY EVENTS AND MUCH MORE THE POSITION WOULD SUIT A TEAM-ORIENTED SECRETARY WHO ENJOYS CLOSE CONTACT AND TOTAL INVOLVEMENT. 60 WPM TYPING AND AUDIO NEEDED. £13,000 NEG + BONUS AND EXCELLENT BENEFITS.
PLEASE TELEPHONE 01-408 0247

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA/SEC TO SENIOR PARTNER

(Chartered Surveyors - Oxford Circus)
Applicants must have previous Commercial Property experience and be able to work on their own initiative in this small, friendly office. WP experience useful (IBM/Wordperfect) but will train.
9.30am - 6.00pm. 4 weeks holiday. Age preferred 28-35. Very busy but rewarding position offering excellent salary and benefits to the right person.
Please telephone or write in confidence to:
C.J. Buckle, FRICS, FSVA, ACF, ARB, Colin Buckle & Company, Canberra House, 315 Regent Street, London, W1R 7XD.
Tel: 01 631 1923 (NO AGENCIES)

FILM PRODUCTION PA/OFFICE MANAGER

c. £15,000 neg.
Brilliant position full of variety and interest assisting MD of enormously successful Film Production Company. The MD needs lots of looking after he's always busy and great fun to work with. At the same time you will be responsible for all office administration and personnel which will involve listening to and trying to sort out people's problems. Co-ordinate recruitment of all permanent and temporary secretarial staff. You'll need to be dedicated and resourceful. Lots of perks. There will be opportunities to attend film premieres and promotional parties.
Call Karin Olsen now at 01-493 8969

PA to World Renowned Entrepreneur

Circa £18K
If you are prepared to give up your weekends (but work 5 days) have excellent skills, languages an asset - for a career opportunity of a lifetime.
Call Karin Olsen now at 01-493 8969

Kingsland

YOUR OWN OFFICE
£14,500 + MORT SUB + BENEFITS
This large well established insurance to business in SW1 requires someone with a proven track record in sales and marketing. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the business and will also be responsible for the recruitment and training of new staff. Good salary and benefits. For more details please contact Nina Seabrook 020 4825 2662 North London Recruitment Co.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK IN THE DIRECT MARKETING INDUSTRY?

ARE YOU HIGHLY ORGANISED? DO YOU HAVE STRONG ADMINISTRATIVE SKILLS?

This is an excellent opportunity for a first class secretary to provide full secretarial and administrative support to a very busy team of salesmen in our City based publishing company's office.
Applicants should have a mature outlook, have the ability to work under pressure whilst maintaining an excellent telephone manner.
In return we offer a competitive salary, an attractive benefits package which includes 20 days annual holiday, an interest free season ticket loan, a pension scheme and BUPA.
To apply write enclosing your C.V. to Mrs C. Caldwell, Charteris Ltd, 14 Willow Street, London EC2A 4BH

PA/SECRETARY TO MANAGING DIRECTOR

Sargent & Potlidakis, a leading firm of Architects and Interior Planners, are seeking a PA/Secretary for the Managing Director.
The successful applicant will have 2/3 years experience working at senior level, possess exemplary secretarial skills, including shorthand, and a willingness to become involved in all aspects of office administration and organisation.
Salary in the region of £15,000 per annum according to age and experience.
Applicants should send a full CV to:
Louise Major
Sargent & Potlidakis, S&P House
3/5 Charing Cross Road WC2N 0HA

MERCHANDISE BANK

£15,500 + PERKS
Prestigious City Merchandise Bank is looking for a Senior PA/Secretary with excellent shorthand (100 wpm) and WP. The successful applicant will have at least 3 years experience at a similar level in addition to a high salary you will receive excellent benefits including mortgage subsidy. Age range 25-30. If you are capable and flexible, well presented with a bright and bubbly personality, RING NOW!
ESTATE AGENT
£10,000-£12,000
Estate Agent in Putney requires an excellent Secretary/Alkunder. You must have at least 1 years experience, ideally in a similar environment and good accurate typing (45 wpm). audio and WP. Good presentation and speaking voice are essential since you will be dealing with clients on the phone and face to face. Hours 9-5, plus occasional Saturday work (10-11). Age range 25-30. If you're bright, enthusiastic and want to be part of a small friendly team, RING NOW!
01 938 1977 JUST JOBS
A DIVISION OF BURNS ANDERSON RECRUITMENT PLC

PRIVATE SECRETARY TO DIRECTOR

Shorthand essential. Furnished flat available. Write, stating experience and salary required to: Dr Sinclair, International Nutrition Foundation, Sutton Courtenay, Oxon OX14 4AW.

SEC PA

£16K + MORT
To assist top Sales Exec where your organising skills can be an asset. Acc SH & Typing + a confident personality are all you need. Exc. bns inc Mort Sub. Call 434 1301. KEYSTONE EMPLOYMENT

Maine-Tucker

Potential? ...brilliant £10,000

Can you be the vital plant for this incredible creative company to turn around...they do need a secretary but an Assistant with gleaming potential who can grasp this opportunity. Career Opportunity and fashion it into the Executive position it is definitely destined to become! The first girl has succeeded, and it is now up to you to become an Account Executive. They work to electrifying Creative deadlines, somehow you have to perceive every situation and organise your crew so that they can pass the winning post every time. They are like the 'A' Team of Advertising as they rise to every Creative challenge with outrageous stunts. If you are looking for a seriously brilliant, not very secretarial (but you do need 40 typing), move in Advertising you can't afford to waste a second - this type of job is virtually extinct!

58 Pall Mall St James's London SW1Y 5LR. Telephone 01-925 0548

PROPERTY COMPANY

Seeks admin and audio secretaries for busy SW1 and SW18 offices. Excellent typing and admin skills essential. Salary neg a.a.e.
VIRGINIA FOSTER
01-785 4422

US CO SENIOR SEC

£15,000
This major, internationally renowned American company based in Great Britain seeks a first class senior sec. A flexible approach and the ability to communicate at all levels are essential qualities for the varied position. Audio/typing - 45 wpm. Training Apple Mac. Age 25-35. Call Karen.
MASTERLOCK RECRUITMENT
01 538 1847/18

THE TIMES

TEMPING TIMES FEATURE

29TH JANUARY 1990

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But who will listen to what you really want to do? Who knows that you are important and that what matters to you counts? Who will measure your skills, train you free of charge and give you new qualifications? Who will match you to a job for which you are absolutely suited? Manpower will. If you want a permanent job, the right permanent job, we'll find it for you.

Call us today to find out more on

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

Are your efforts being rewarded?

Well established, Recruitment Consultancy is urgently looking for 2 experienced interviewers with proven track records, for their recently opened Division in the West End. This is an exciting opportunity where you will be given full authority to expand and develop your business under the umbrella of our supportive management. For candidates with the right experience who feel their efforts are not being suitably rewarded come and talk to us. Our package includes high basic and commission, PPP plus company car scheme, and performance related bonuses.

CALL ROBERT DIMLER ON 01-224 2080
EVENINGS 01-367 5730

DIRECTOR'S PA

PA/Secretary required for a busy Main Board Director of a national Construction Group. Experienced and able to work on own initiative. Good organisational and SH/WP skills. Marketing background an advantage. Excellent salary and conditions. West London based.

Detailed CV to Box No.H40.

PERSONAL SECRETARY REQUIRED FOR A DIRECTOR OF A NUMBER OF COMPANIES

Having worked for this Director for a number of years, I am happy to leave for family reasons. I find my job interesting and worthwhile and I would like to think that somebody may be interested in taking over my role. The job is based in the Strand with general working conditions. Good SH/WP skills and elementary book-keeping essential.

Tel: 01-379 6908

CONVERSATIONAL GERMAN £15,000

As PA (9040) in English to his City Director you will be at the heart of an international, Europe-Focused, company, where you will have a wide range of responsibilities and a high level of responsibility. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the management of the Director's personal and professional affairs. You will also be responsible for the management of the Director's personal and professional affairs. You will also be responsible for the management of the Director's personal and professional affairs.

Call Arabela on 377 6777.
Middleton Jeffers
RECRUITMENT LIMITED

MULTI-LINGUAL OPPORTUNITIES

TRANSLATORS/SPANISH

We require motivated people to work in our Latin American Division. Preferably people with a degree in Spanish, a Post Graduate qualification in translation (or a translation based first degree) or bilingual secretarial skills. English mother tongue preferred, plus excellent command of Spanish. Required to provide clear and comprehensive translation of text from Spanish to English and English to Spanish. Will cross train on WP.

Also required

SENIOR PA

Top class shorthand/typing/WP skills. Fluent Spanish/English mother tongue. We are ideally looking for someone with a particular flair for graphics/presentations.

If you are 25+ with the above qualifications please write enclosing your CV to:

Miss Jane Greer Personnel Officer
CitCorp Insurance Brokers Ltd.,
No.1 Seeding Lane,
London EC3N 4NH.

PA TO MANAGING DIRECTOR

Interested and want to work for PA with a managing director in a new and exciting environment. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the management of the Director's personal and professional affairs. You will also be responsible for the management of the Director's personal and professional affairs.

Tel: Cathy Miller on 01-384 1198.

GERMAN PA/Sec/Admin

£12,000. New position in a new company. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the management of the Director's personal and professional affairs. You will also be responsible for the management of the Director's personal and professional affairs.

Call Pauline on 01-481 4481.

PA TO CHAIRMAN CHELSEA £20,000

The American Chairman of an internationally successful property group seeks an intelligent, resourceful, professional PA to prioritise his day. He is dynamic and charming and expects only the best. Secretarial skills of 8000 are essential but a flair for organisation will be of greater importance. Age 25-35.

ADMINISTRATION SUPERVISOR c. £15,500

This organisation seeks an initiator with excellent supervisory experience to develop this challenging role. Your responsibilities are diverse, ranging from all general office supplies and contracts, to organising their conferences, parties and assisting with annual budgets. Admin experience is essential, combined with strong communication skills and common sense. Age 25-40.

ASSISTANT PERSONNEL OFFICER £13,000

Do you want to carve a career in personnel? A small international firm of accountants in EC2 seeks a well educated and motivated person with a cheerful disposition to help implement policies in a generalist role. If you have a flair for admin and WP skills this could be the start of a challenging career. Age 19-25.

Please call 01-631 0479

P.A./Office Manager Regent Street

An international, family owned group of companies in trading and investments worldwide with London HQ, requires a well educated and smartly presented, business-minded person to administer a small, friendly, non-smoking office, to coordinate two directors' activities and liaise with overseas senior executives. The person should be numerate, accurate and have several years of experience in a commercial environment.

The successful applicant will have an assistant but must herself have all secretarial skills and knowledge of bookkeeping. German language and computer experience an advantage. English mother tongue preferable.

This interesting and stimulating position with varied tasks is available in February. Very attractive salary.

Please call Teresa Appleton on 01-323 1269.

FUND RAISING PROGRAMME SECRETARY

A Secretary with experience as a personal assistant to a senior executive, to work with the Manager of a major Fund Raising Programme for The King's School, Canterbury, commencing mid February.

Requirements: WP experience, preferably on Apple Macintosh System (training given if required). Ability to work without supervision in a challenging and busy environment. Ability to deal with a wide cross-section of people. Proven speed and accuracy.

Salary £11-12,000, according to experience.

Applications, enclosing CV and names of two referees to: The Bursar, 25 The Precincts, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2ES

P.A./SECRETARY - £12,500 plus Car

The Directors of a busy Consultancy in W2 need a highly organised Secretary able to think and act on own initiative. Ideally, you must have a wide range of experience in secretarial duties. You must be a non-smoker, aged between 22 and 25. Call Helen Gibbons on 727 6474 for interview. NO AGENCIES

ADMINISTRATOR £15,000

One of the leading Poster Advertising Companies requires an experienced Administrator to control its London department involving 10,000 records and the payment of rents. There is a team of 10 persons and the records are in the course of being computerised.

Please apply with C.V. to D.E. Duck, National Solus Sites Ltd., Norman House, 105-109 Strand, London WC2N 0AD.

Covent Garden Architectural Practice

requires experienced secretary 25+ with previous experience in architectural/building trade an advantage. Salary negotiable.

Julie Harding, Bradshaw Rowe Harker,
25 Shelton Street, Covent Garden, London WC2H 9HT.

ADMIN PA NO SH. £14,250 + 017 + BENS

The Young International Co seeks a young, energetic, motivated, and hard working PA to assist the Managing Director. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the management of the Director's personal and professional affairs. You will also be responsible for the management of the Director's personal and professional affairs.

Call Tania on 240 4382.
Ridgeland Pans.

ADMIN SEC TO £18,000 + MORT

Prospective Merchant Bank requires an experienced Admin Secretary to work in its London office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the management of the Director's personal and professional affairs. You will also be responsible for the management of the Director's personal and professional affairs.

Call Pauline on 381 8448.

RECEPTION SELECTION

£12,500 + Bonus. £14,000 + Bonus. £15,000 + Bonus. £16,000 + Bonus. £17,000 + Bonus. £18,000 + Bonus. £19,000 + Bonus. £20,000 + Bonus. £21,000 + Bonus. £22,000 + Bonus. £23,000 + Bonus. £24,000 + Bonus. £25,000 + Bonus. £26,000 + Bonus. £27,000 + Bonus. £28,000 + Bonus. £29,000 + Bonus. £30,000 + Bonus. £31,000 + Bonus. £32,000 + Bonus. £33,000 + Bonus. £34,000 + Bonus. £35,000 + Bonus. £36,000 + Bonus. £37,000 + Bonus. £38,000 + Bonus. £39,000 + Bonus. £40,000 + Bonus. £41,000 + Bonus. £42,000 + Bonus. £43,000 + Bonus. £44,000 + Bonus. £45,000 + Bonus. £46,000 + Bonus. £47,000 + Bonus. £48,000 + Bonus. £49,000 + Bonus. £50,000 + Bonus. £51,000 + Bonus. £52,000 + Bonus. £53,000 + Bonus. £54,000 + Bonus. £55,000 + Bonus. £56,000 + Bonus. £57,000 + Bonus. £58,000 + Bonus. £59,000 + Bonus. £60,000 + Bonus. £61,000 + Bonus. £62,000 + Bonus. £63,000 + Bonus. £64,000 + Bonus. £65,000 + Bonus. £66,000 + Bonus. £67,000 + Bonus. £68,000 + Bonus. £69,000 + Bonus. £70,000 + Bonus. £71,000 + Bonus. £72,000 + Bonus. £73,000 + Bonus. £74,000 + Bonus. £75,000 + Bonus. £76,000 + Bonus. £77,000 + Bonus. £78,000 + Bonus. £79,000 + Bonus. £80,000 + Bonus. £81,000 + Bonus. £82,000 + Bonus. £83,000 + Bonus. £84,000 + Bonus. £85,000 + Bonus. £86,000 + Bonus. £87,000 + Bonus. £88,000 + Bonus. £89,000 + Bonus. £90,000 + Bonus. £91,000 + Bonus. £92,000 + Bonus. £93,000 + Bonus. £94,000 + Bonus. £95,000 + Bonus. £96,000 + Bonus. £97,000 + Bonus. £98,000 + Bonus. £99,000 + Bonus. £100,000 + Bonus.

COLLEGE TO CAREER

£12,000 + mortgage subsidy. Excellent admin. skills, willingness to travel occasionally and the ability to work unsupervised. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the management of the Director's personal and professional affairs. You will also be responsible for the management of the Director's personal and professional affairs.

Call Pauline on 381 8448.

RECEPTION SELECTION

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RECEPTION SELECTION

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Call 01-925 2616

Whitbread feels the strain of her fitness battle

From Simon Barnes, Sydney

Fatima Whitbread raised serious doubts about her fitness to compete in the women's javelin at the Commonwealth Games in Auckland, starting next week, when her first competitive throw since a shoulder operation seven months ago proved a grave disappointment yesterday.

The Olympic silver medal winner could manage only 54.12 metres to take fourth place in the Commonwealth Challenge meeting here and has had to alter her preparations for Auckland.

She is now planning to compete in another meeting in Australia in the next few days. And then, perhaps, the Games. "I'll have to see how I feel after I have thrown again," she said yesterday. "To see if the quality comes when I compete. It is very difficult for me to throw as hard and as explosively as I have before."

Whitbread does not look that fragile. But the fact is that she is as spun glass. And after a horrid day yesterday she is quite sick with disappointment. It is that mighty shoulder that is a spectacularly unsubtle irony for her. "It's going to be a long struggle and I ask that people understand that," she said, doing a good job of putting a brave face on it.

But she could not quite conceal the dreadful disappointment. Whitbread has thrown over 70 metres on 54 occasions, which made this a

fairly desperate occasion for her.

The winning throw, from Sue Howland, an Australian who is just back after a two-year suspension for taking drugs, was a mere 61.90 metres, which would normally have been well within the scope of a fit Whitbread. It was a vital test for her, and she failed it. It was her second competitive throw since the Seoul Olympics and the first since last May when the seriousness of the damage to her shoulder became clear.

She had split the muscle sheath, and had undergone some tough surgery to get it unbreakably mended. Doctors would have preferred her to take a year off she has given it seven months. "It's a totally different shoulder," she said.

"They have taken a bone from it, the muscle is in a different position, and when I throw I have to pull through a completely different line."

"At first I was planning to stay at home and forget about the Commonwealth Games. But I needed some warm weather training, and you've got to start somewhere. And I wanted to be here, among all the athletes, among all the atmospheres. I have to give it a whirl. I have to be optimistic."

I think if I was asked to select the one overriding quality of leading sports people, it would not be competitiveness,

or even strength of will. It would be optimism. The kind of optimism that makes you believe you are capable of quite impossible things.

It seems, sometimes, that athletes do not have a proper grasp of physical realities. I know I could not possibly do this, they say - but on the other hand, what if I did? They are the sort of people who attempt to do totally ludicrous things - and every now and then, they do them.

There are some people in sport who will see a palpable absurdity as a totally realistic challenge, and who then go out and perform it, in defiance of physical logic. What about pressure, Fatima? One of the jostling journalists asked her.

"The pressure comes from you people," she said, in her slightly edgy way. "You'll all write me off, and then if I go and win it in Auckland, you'll all be writing different things, and writing as if it was a miracle... If I win in Auckland, it will be a miracle."

The way she looked yesterday, if she competes in Auckland, it will be a miracle. However, Whitbread's misfortune allowed Nicola Emblem, a Scot, aged 18, an opportunity not to be missed. Emblem improved her best by 3.10 metres to 55.56 metres to inflict a rare defeat on Whitbread by a Briton since they finished in third and fourth places.



Pain but no gain: Whitbread, handicapped by a shoulder injury, fails to impress in Sydney

Beasant spares Chelsea an embarrassment

By Clive White

Sheffield Wednesday - 1 Chelsea

The eyes of the sporting nation focussed upon Hillsborough yesterday for the first time since last April's tragedy and came away smiling. If those sympathetic to Sheffield Wednesday's cause felt a little less happy about the two points denied them, at least they knew that their team and Chelsea's had played their part in one of the more exciting televised games.

The reason for Wednesday's woe was clear for all to see, all 6ft 4in of it. Rarely can the choice of television's man of the match have been more obvious. Even Emily Hughes, the guest analyst, could not get this particular question wrong. Only Beasant stood between Chelsea and the kind of goal avalanche which has been piling up on the London club in recent games.

Apart from the final quarter of an hour when Ron Atkinson's eager and talented youngsters tired, it was a case of Chelsea putting their trust in England's No. 2 goalkeeper and hoping that their seventh-minute lead might earn them some sort of reward.

Wednesday, prompted with an uncanny precision by the economical Sheridan that was reminiscent of Giles at his best, ran the legs off Chelsea's five-man defence. Carr, on loan from Nottingham Forest, performed with an accuracy and composure which has not always been evident at the City Ground. He repeatedly outpaced even the rapid Le Saux, deputising for the injured Dorigo, to become provider of some of Wednesday's most inspired efforts. But even he was a distant second best to the defiant Beasant.

One save that Beasant made from Carr, when he had to stretch every inch of his frame to turn away a fierce swerving drive, was as Beasant acknowledged later, the turning point. "If they scored then the outcome

might have been different," he said.

Chelsea took the lead when Dixon outjumped Shirliff to Roberts' free kick and nodded down for Lee to score a simple goal, his first in nine months.

It was not long before Wednesday assumed control. Hirst, the young Wednesday forward, ought to have equalised after 25 minutes but shot over the crossbar from eight yards.

The game soon developed into a catalogue of near-misses by Wednesday and great saves by Beasant as a frustrated Atkinson took up a standing position by the dugout as he Kenny Dalglish. One of the best, indeed two of the best, of Beasant's saves was his double denial from Hirst just before half-time when he blocked the first shot with his legs and then while still prostrate, got a hand to Hirst's follow-up to scoop it away for a corner.

Sheffield Wednesday's equaliser five minutes after half-time could hardly have been more richly deserved in the circumstances. Sheridan, as usual, was at the hub of it, timing to perfection the through ball to the athletic Atkinson. Though denied by Roberts' fine sliding tackle, the prolific Wednesday scorer accepted the second opportunity from Carr's corner to score his 13th goal of the season with a swooping header.

The substitution of Madden who is in his benefit year, for the injured Nilsson at half-time, gave Chelsea hope of expunging Wednesday's hope of pace down the middle but Dixon seldom got the opportunity. Even then Wednesday could have snatched victory but Hirst, put through in the closing seconds, inexplicably slammed the ball into the side netting.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY: C. Hirst, R. Atkinson, D. Sheridan, D. Hirst, D. Atkinson, C. Carr, D. Beasant, S. Carr, G. Le Saux, G. Roberts, E. Hughes, M. Dalglish, D. Dixon, D. Wicks, A. Madden. Referee: R. G. Millard.

Pied Piper Coe dances on

From David Powell, Athletics Correspondent, Sydney

Whatever Kerry Saxby did at Sydney Athletic Field yesterday was never going to be enough. The most prolific record breaker in Australian athletics history, surpassing Ron Clarke, set her 24th world record or best, but then along came Sebastian Coe to show what a real Pied Piper can do.

Saxby, blonde and bronzed, had her flock, but most of the dancing was done after Coe. Saxby may be a mere race walker to us, but who in Britain believed in the decathlon and the marathon before Thompson and Brasher proved persuasive by their actions?

Saxby, who brought the 5,000 metres women's walk record down by 15 seconds to 20min 17.19sec, has performed a similar service for walking in Australia. "Leisure walking is becoming as popular here as jogging used to be," Rick Pannell, the Australia team manager, said. And Saxby is Australia's sports-woman of the year. Yet when Coe showed up, Saxby was not walking quite so tall.

Coe is on his farewell tour,

which ends with his retirement at the Commonwealth Games in Auckland; he won in Hobart over 1,500 metres a fortnight ago and now here, over 800 metres, in 1min 47.66sec. In the process, he beat both his England colleagues for the distance in Auckland, Matthew Yates and Iken Billy, and Brian Whittle, of Scotland.

"Everything is on schedule," Coe said. "I'm having an immense amount of fun and I don't feel any pressure. I'm in the global scale of things is pretty meaningless, but I'm in hard training still. The race told me that I can still come out of heavy training and find

False jump findings

Rome (AP) - More than two years after his leap was falsified to give the Italian long-jumper Giovanni Evangelisti a bronze medal at the world athletics championships in Rome, the Italian Athletic Federation's disciplinary committee has exonerated all its leading officials.

The committee, chaired by

a turn of leg speed." Coe, aged 33, who has yet to win a Commonwealth medal, attempts the middle distance double in Auckland. "Whatever happens I'm going to leave smiling," he added. "I am probably the last of a generation of athletes who firmly believes that major championships are the only things to concern yourself with."

Coe would have been impressed by what Liz McColgan had to say on that subject. While he was circumspect about his prospects, she spoke with the confidence of one who had marked her crosses on the coupon while knowing

the results. "I have a three-year plan," she said. "To win gold medals at the Europeans, the Worlds, and the Olympics."

McColgan, the Commonwealth 10,000 metres champion and Olympic silver medal winner, had just won the 3,000 metres in 8min 43.14sec. After aborting last season halfway through because of staleness, she is now confident of winning both the 3,000 metres and 10,000 metres in Auckland. "I stopped in July because I didn't enjoy what I was doing any more," McColgan said. "I just wanted to be a normal person. My life was out of control with other people running it. It was the best decision I have made. I've got my competitive spirit back and I'm really enjoying it."

While Linnor Christie, with a victory in 10.39sec, gave no reason to doubt that he will win the 100 metres in Auckland, John Regis, the 200 metres favourite, was beaten by his England team-mate, Marcus Adam. Adam clocked 20.83sec to Regis's 20.99.

Balloons go up on chaotic marathon

From Michael Coleman, Marrakesh

A misunderstanding among local competitors during the preamble to a road race in Marrakesh yesterday created chaotic scenes at the start and resulted in the rarest of athletic misdemeanours - a false start to a marathon.

Seven minutes before the starting gun was due to be fired, several hundred Moroccan competitors, who had been penned in the town square for about an hour in the rising sun, mistook the release of publicity balloons for their signal.

With a mighty cheer, they swept race officials, all the women runners and most of the elite, invited internationalists aside and took to the road. The leading contenders hesitated, then joined them, leaving the timekeepers, judges, referees and media - and half the field of more than 5,000 - behind.

Out into the streets they streamed, in their quest to share in the \$50,000 worth of cash prizes.

Back in the square, confusion reigned. Moroccan,

French and Sky TV were filming. What is more, King Hassan II and his entire entourage were entrenched in town. Fortunately, the desire of one of the princes to start the event had been delicately side-stepped.

Yesterday, quick-witted officials jumped into cars and, taking short cuts, headed off the 2,000-strong column after two kilometres. All had to retrace their steps and line up again. But this time, they were so out of order that most of the elite, brought here to run records and enter Marrakesh in the first division of marathon races, were submerged mid-race or even at the back.

Surviving the second stampede of a take-off, Jan Hurrek, of Poland, set a course record of 2min 14.29sec, while Martine van der Geuchte, of Belgium, with 2:42:14, passed Gillian Cascais, of Britain, at 2:43:46, to take first place among the women.

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Referees urged to pile up for Macari

By Dennis Sigay

Referees are being urged to get tough with players who step out of line, as the Football League joins with the Football Association in its campaign against disorder on the pitch.

Incidents involving the champions, Arsenal, Norwich City, West Ham United and Wimbledon and several other clubs prompted the League this week to take the unprecedented step of writing to all match officials telling them they have the management committee's full backing to take stricter action.

The League especially urges a hard line where "a common sense or low-key approach" does not have the desired effect. The League fears a low-key approach preferred by some experienced referees is putting pressure on referees across the board.

● Watford have been fined £10,000 for arriving late for their second division game with Blackburn Rovers in October. Watford arrived late at Ewood Park after being delayed on the M6, and the kick-off had to be put back an hour.

● However, the Football League have suspended 75 per cent of the fine for two years "because of the particular circumstances which existed on the day, and the club's previous good record". Watford were ordered to pay all reasonable expenses incurred by Blackburn because of the late kick-off and they were fined an extra £250 for not submitting a team sheet to the referee 45 minutes before the kick-off.

● Brian Gayle could be on his way to Ipswich Town from Manchester City for £350,000. Gayle is having talks with the Ipswich manager, John Duncan, who was given permission by the City manager, Howard Kendall, to talk to the player.

Maradona is punished

Rome (Reuters) - Diego Maradona has been fined \$10,000 (approximately £6,100) by the Italian Football Federation for alleging that the draw for the 1990 World Cup finals was rigged.

"Personally I think that the December 9 draw was decided in advance," Maradona had claimed. The day after he made his remarks the Argentinian said he was willing to apologize if necessary but that he did not regret them.

Cameroon, the Soviet Union and Romania in Group B, a section considered one of the toughest.

● The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has given no explanation for its dismissal of the Brazilian coach, Mario Zagallo, who took the national team to the World Cup finals for the first time.

Zagallo, who joined the UAE in June 1988 was on a two-year contract that included a salary of \$240,000 (approximately £145,000).

Blanco is doubtful for Cardiff

By Owen Jenkins, George Ace and Alan Lorimer

Serge Blanco, the French full back, is doubtful for the opening game in the five nations rugby union championship against Wales in Cardiff on Saturday. Recalled for his 73rd cap, after being dropped for the second international against Australia in November, Blanco has groin trouble.

He had to leave the field half an hour before the end of Biarritz's 9-3 French championship defeat yesterday. Afterwards he refused to indicate how serious the injury was, saying he preferred to await a medical check today.

Although Dominique Erhani, the French lock, needed three stitches in a gash

on the bridge of his nose after being injured in Agen's championship game at Hagetmau, he is fit for Saturday. Phil Davies, of Llanelli, and Mark Ring, of Cardiff, will have to prove their fitness for the international at tests in Cardiff tonight. Ring was a late withdrawal from his club side at Aberavon on Saturday because of a thigh muscle injury but the selectors expect him to pass the test.

And although Davies has undergone physiotherapy to a calf muscle injury received on New Year's Day, he also expects to come through.

Philip Rainey, the Ballymena and Ulster full back, has a 50-50 chance of

playing against England at Twickenham on Saturday. Rainey, who made his international debut against New Zealand in November, bruised a thigh in the Ballymena-Instonians game.

Donal Lenihan, the Constitution lock forward, underwent a manipulative operation on Saturday night on a nose injury. He did not attend yesterday's workout in Dublin, where Des Fitzgerald, missing from the Lansdowne team that defeated St Mary's College on Saturday, came through stiff training and is considered a certain starter. Lenihan is also confident of being fully fit.

Bradan Mullin, the

Blackrock College centre, has a leg injury but is expected to play at Twickenham.

Should Rainey withdraw, Kenny Murphy, the Constitution and Munster full back, will almost certainly take over. In that case Ireland will field three new caps, the others being Gary Halpin, the tight-head prop, and Peter Russell, the stand-off half.

Two of Scotland's B team to play France at Oyonnax on Sunday could be doubtful. The stand-off, George Breckinridge, and his Glasgow High/Kelvinside clubmate and flanker, Derek Busby, both sustained foot injuries over the weekend while playing Stirling County.

Sports leaders answer call to rescue Games

Three of Britain's top sports administrators - Sir Arthur Gold, Dick Palmer and Ron Ems - will lend their expertise to the running of the World Student Games, due to be held in Sheffield in 1991.

Gold, chairman of the British Olympic Association, Palmer, the association's general secretary, and Ems, chairman of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, are to form an emergency working party to seek sponsorship and help organise the Games.

Both the Sports Council, which gave £3 million of the estimated £30 million needed to run the Games two months ago, and the British International Sports Committee, which promotes Britain's interests in the international arena, are concerned that a financial crisis threatens the event.

Tour finds support

Johannesburg (AFP) - Only 24 per cent of black South Africans are opposed to the unofficial cricket tour of the country by an English side which starts next week, according to yesterday's Johannesburg Sunday Times.

The newspaper, commissioned by the South African Cricket Union, found 41 per cent of the 1,000 blacks polled nationwide supported the tour.

England won the five-nation cross-country international at Irvine yesterday.

No link

Colin Lait, the Neath rugby union centre, has denied reports linking him with a £100,000 move to Salford rugby league club.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Coghlan: indoor victory

Hamilton, Ontario (Reuters) - Eamonn Coghlan, of Ireland, won a 3,000 metres race in 8min 5.48sec at his first indoor track meeting in two years.

Hard night

Mönchengladbach (AP) - Igor Belanov, the Soviet footballer, was released by police after a night in custody for suspected shoplifting.

Norman out

Gold Coast, Australia (Reuters) - Greg Norman disqualified himself from the Daily Palm Meadows Cup after taking two drops from out of the water during his first round of 66 on Thursday. Rodger Davis won the event at the second hole of a play-off with Curtis Strange.

Winning end

Vermont University lacrosse team beat Hitchin 19-7 yesterday to finish their English tour with four wins and only one defeat.

Blown away

Ile of Palms, South Carolina (AP) - Hurricane Hugo proved too much for Wild Dunes Racquet Club, which is unable to hold the US men's clay court tennis championships in May.

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